

Cottenham Scrapbook 1897 to 1990  
Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by  
Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at  
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in  
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library  
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the  
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897 11 24

The Old Baptist Chapel at Cottenham has a somewhat austere exterior, though inside all is welcome and brightness. But while the welcome has always been there the brightness is a very recent addition. A month ago the chapel was anything but bright. Having been closed for about a month the Chapel was re-opened yesterday amid every manifestation of rejoicing. The general effect of brightness has been given to the interior by the colouring of the walls, stencilling of the window reveals, ornamentation of the ceiling and varnishing of the pews. Mr W. Chivers said he could hardly realise that the building was the same old chapel. They had so decorated it and beautified it that they had brought it up to the fashion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

1898 09 18

This morning shows a big blank in the row of houses in Church End, Cottenham. A little after before eight o'clock some children called Mrs Smith and told her that a boy was setting a fire near her husband's stacks. Very quickly the stacks, outbuildings, barn and furniture were devoured. In the buildings were two horses and two pigs, which it was impossible to save, and they were roasted alive. The burning flesh could be smelled a long way down the Street. On went the fire to the adjoining premises, "The Jolly Millers" inn. In a back room lay Mr Thomas Legge, the veteran postman, fast asleep, and he was carried out of harms way just in the nick of time. That ancient, lumbering instrument known as the Cottenham fire engine was hauled out from among the cobwebs and after a lengthy leakage it did its best to sprout the limited supply of water on the flames

1898 10 23

Four travelling hawkers were summoned for unlawfully driving a four wheel van on to the village green at Cottenham, contrary to the by-laws which had been posted in various parts of the village, including the village green. Lawyer for the defendants said it had been the custom to use the green on Sundays from time immemorial at the time of the village feast. He also pointed out that the defendants could neither read nor write. The magistrates said they were bound to support the parish council and fined defendants 10s.6d.

1899 09 16

Wednesday marked another epoch in the history of the Ebenezer Chapel, Cottenham – the reopening after thorough restoration. The somewhat gloomy appearance of the interior had been the subject of comment, now the interior is in keeping with the bright services held in the chapel, cheerful, warm looking decorations having replaced those of former times. In the evening the chapel was crowded in every part.

1899 12 02

The annual ploughing competitions of the Cottenham Ploughing Society were brought off. Mr Greene said they lived in days of invention; they already had steam ploughs, which did not make much headway, and it was very likely they would see motor ploughs in the future. He believed the day was far distant when the need of a good horse to draw the plough, and of a good man to drive it would no longer exist in Cottenham. A feature of the competition was the good ploughing of F. Skinner who has entered four times and on each occasion taken first place.

1900 08 01

Cottenham Gas and Water Company wrote to say that before they commence laying the mains for the water supply they would like a guarantee that the parish will take a sufficient quantity of water to warrant them doing so. They would erect 33 stand-pipes, 400 feet apart. Mr Wiles said 400 feet was very close together and he did not think the stand-pipes required to be so near each other. 200 yards was a reasonable distance.

1900 10 11

Violent hostilities characterised the election meeting at Cottenham. For upwards of an hour the burly youths began to assemble in the precincts of the schoolroom. The room was soon filled and the booing and yelling of

the mob was simply deafening. The arrival of Sir Robert Fitzgerald was a signal for groans and hisses. They seized his coat, which they tore, knocked off his hat and hustled him in all directions. He took refuge in the house of Mr J.M. Gould and finally escaped about an hour later

1901 12 05

Chesterton RDC considered the provision of an adequate water supply for Cottenham to remedy the unsatisfactory system of carrying water round in a water cart. It was one of the largest villages, with a population of 2,500 and should have a supply commensurate with its needs. They regretted that a scheme proposed six months ago had broken down and wished it could now be carried out. A meeting favoured spending £20 in erecting a standpipe at the end of Broad Lane supplied with water from a well on the premises of the Crown Trading Company, but this was too small of make it pay as a private enterprise.

1902 01 02

A meeting at Cottenham decided to formulate a new scheme for supplying the whole parish with water. Considerable uproar was occasioned by the Chairman, on observing a stranger in the room, and being informed he was a reporter representing the "C.D.N.", exclaiming: "We don't want any reporters here". Mr Todd moved the reporter should remain, as he would no doubt fairly report the meeting; they would do nothing they were ashamed of. It was then proposed he be admitted as a representative of the "Independent Press" and this was agreed to

1902 04 16

The Histon and Impington Bicycle Club were "at home" to members of the Cambridge Wanderer's Cycling Club at the Boot Inn, Histon. Every preparation had been made for the comfort of the cyclists & the room presented the gayest aspect, owing to decorations of flags, bunting etc. Mr G.H. Whitehead of the "Senior Wrangler" Bicycle Firm, Cottenham and Mr George Tolliday of the "George" Cycle Works Histon were amongst those present. A capital programme of music was gone through including 'Goodbye, Dolly Gray' and the comic song "Cheer up, you'll soon be dead"

1902 06 19

The latest phase of the controversy over water supply, which has divided the people of Cottenham for the last 20 years, was a meeting when a new scheme was floated. There was a large attendance. It was proposed to supply water from a very good source at the Green, which had been analysed. The water to be pumped into a tank by means of a windmill and conveyed down the street by proper pipes, standpipes to be erected where necessary. Mr Lack said he could get water to supply Church End by means of pumps, though there was a doubt keeping them in order.

1902 07 03

News from Cottenham as to the outbreak of typhoid fever becomes daily more serious. Twelve cases are now reported and in three more persons the disease is suspected. The cases are attributed to the bad water available in the parish for drinking purposes. Whether this latest outbreak will result in some action being taken to give the district a wholesome supply of water we cannot say. One epidemic of typhoid had passed over the village but the warning then given was unheeded and now Nature has taken the matter in hand in her own summary and peculiarly effective manner.

1903 04 25

Chesterton RDC heard that Cottenham had got a full supply of water. They were obliged to supplement the supply with the old water cart. It seemed bad they should be paying both the water company and the man who owned the cart. The Clerk said that he wrote to the man and told him to discontinue but was informed that he had a contract for 12 months, and would expect the money, so he might as well use the cart. The contract was only up to the time when a proper water supply was obtainable but the new pipes had discoloured the water and it was not quite fit for drinking purposes. The Inspector of Nuisances

1903 06 10

To Mr Sidney W. Lack of Cottenham belongs the honour of a feat which has never before been accomplished by any other cyclist in England, namely winning eight first prizes and one third prize at three consecutive athletic meetings in four days. They were held at Dersingham, where he won three including the half-mile scratch cycle race, Norwich where he won three more, and Wymondham where he secured two first prizes. At Norwich two lads were leading him by some six lengths when they both came a 'cropper', leaving him to race alone. This will stand out pre-eminent as a red-letter week in the annals of Lack's racing career.

1903 10 17

One hears of many curious accidents to cyclists but one which befell a Histon cyclist near Cottenham was quite unique. A cat became entangled between the spokes and the fork of the front wheel of his machine and was so badly injured that it died. Usually cats manage to steer wonderfully clear of machines but this unfortunate feline must have dashed right into the cyclist's front wheel

1904 07 13

Cottenham is proud of its sturdy boys but would much rather that the youths should demonstrate the strength of their arms on other material than the school windows. Recently nearly 40 panes of glass were discovered to be smashed. There had been a stone-throwing competition among the lads whose correctness of aim did them more credit than their disregard for public property. The names of some of the culprits are known but fines would punish the parents rather than the boys. A stout application of the birch, or homely cane, would probably fulfil the requirements of the case.

1905 01 27

The villagers of Cottenham have been provided with a suitable building, to be known as the Victoria Institute, in which to spend their spare time in a profitable and enjoyable manner. It has been erected on the site of the Old Philo which has been used as a reading room for nearly 40 years. But now Mr F. Darrell has erected the new building at his own expense. Subscribers will have use of periodicals, billiards etc while more unfortunate residents will be able to use the public room where papers will be provided as well as various games including bagatelle, chess and draughts.

1905 03 21

A public meeting under the auspices of the Cottenham Total Abstinence Society was held at the Boys' School, giving them the opportunity of firing another shot at the great enemy of strong drink and the drinking customs of the country. They had a tremendous foe to fight and must bring out all the weapons they possibly could. The new Licensing Act had been a set-back but it was not a defeat. Even the Government was beginning to recognise the value of temperance by voting money for the teaching of total abstinence in the ranks of the British Army 05 03 21

1905 07 08

Mr Prevett, the clever local Punch and Judy man was performing at a garden party near Cottenham and demonstrating the unhappy relations between Punch and his spouse with much vigour. At the conclusion of the show he was accosted by a lady who protested his manipulation of the dolls was too brutal and would have a demoralising effect on the poor innocent rustics. A short time after the lady married, and quite recently was fined for assaulting her husband with a garden rake! 05 07 08a

1905 11 05

Justices awarded compensation under the scheme for reducing the number of public houses. They included the Hoops pubs in Kneesworth, Cottenham Windmill; Dry Drayton Rose and Crown 05 11 04b-d

1906 01 06

This week has died near Chatham an old man named Walter Tibball, said to have been a prosperous pork butcher of Cambridge. But nobody here remembers him. He had at one time been prosperous but was crossed in love and lived in as a hermit in a dirty hut in a meadow swarming with rats. There was

a similar case at Cottenham six years ago; he too had an ill-fated love affair followed by fondness for spirituous liquors and lived in a squalid hut on his own bit of freehold. 06 01 06f

1906 03 10

The John Bull beer house, Swaffham Prior, contained two public rooms and stabling for four horses, it was 34 yards from the Red Lion, a full-license house. Mr Bulman had held the licence since 1898. Lacons had purchased it in 1901 The trade was over two barrels a week as well as ginger wine, which was very good for a beer house, there had been no complaints and it was well-conducted. The licence was renewed. others: Blue Boar Grantchester, King William Willingham, Plough Cottenham 06 03 10

1905 03 06

History of Cottenham by C.H. Evelyn-White 06 03 15b-c

1906 05 15

Cottenham and the telephone – 06 05 15

1908 01 24

A remarkable case occupied the attention of Ely magistrates when an assistant schoolmistress summonsed a Cottenham farmer in respect to the paternity of her child. Last year she'd obtained an order against the brother of the present defendant but now it appeared that she must have been mistaken. The two had met at Stretham feast but witnesses were unable to say which brother they'd seen her with as there was a great likeness between them 08 01 24c

1908 03 12

Cottenham was the scene of a regrettable exhibition of rowdyism when a gang of youths tried to break up a Tariff Reform meeting addressed by Mr Newton, of Croxton Park. The disturbers were lads of from 16 to 20 years of age who cat-called, booed and stamped their feet. Choruses of various songs were lustily rendered and it was feared the meeting would have to be abandoned. 08 03 12 & a

1908 04 09

Cottenham rowdyism – 08 04 09a

1908 04 21

Cottenham well sinking – inquest – 08 04 21

1908 06 05

The licensee of the White Horse, Cottenham, claimed it did a good trade. They might have two commercial travellers during the fruit-growing season at 3s.6d. (18p), bed and breakfast. The Trinity Beagles sometimes had tea there; they paid one shilling each but ate all the bread, jam and tea they could get and he would rather not have them. Otherwise they only had two people to tea and not more than one to lunch in a week. CWN 08 06 05 p3

1908 06 12

Caterpillars are wreaking havoc to fruit growers; Mr John Chivers says his orchards are being literally eaten up by them devouring the foliage and leaving the trees in a garb of mid-winter nakedness. The insects also drop to the gooseberry bushes planted beneath the fruit trees and there wage a similar war. From 30 acres he does not expect to obtain 30 bushels of gooseberries. At Cottenham caterpillar shooting parties have been organised each evening to attack the enemy when they cluster for the night; 20-30 guns, charged with caps, have been employed for three weeks. CWN 08 06 12 p5

1908 07 17

This year's Cottenham Flower show will long be remembered because of the terrible weather that blighted the efforts of the promoters. The constant downpour kept away visitors and turned the whole affair into a fiasco. The 'Cambridge Nibs', however, gave a comic entertainment in the luncheon marquee. CWN 08 07 17 p5

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach,, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb CWN 08 07 31

1908 07 31

Cottenham's new church clock has been placed in position on the tower about ten feet higher than the former one. The work of Messrs Smith and Sons of Derby, it has two dials and brass hands. The quarter chimes are sweet in tone. The previous clock was thought to be more than 200 years old and had long since failed as a time keeper CWN 08 07 31

1908 10 09

Provision of smallholdings Hauxton, Cottenham, Steeple Morden & Haslingfield – CWN 08 10 09

1908 12 18

Westrope's Year Book contains a host of useful information concerning the villages around Cottenham. It teems with every possible kind of useful hint with regard to health, wealth and happiness. There are photographs of local interest, notes housekeeping and a large number of anecdotes as well as plenty of space to keep a diary and a £200 free insurance coupon. All this for twopence. CWN 08 12 18

1909 01 08

Pension day in villages – Cottenham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Histon, Over, Stretham, Isleham, Haddenham, Longstanton – 09 01 08

1909 07 02

A number of village public houses are no longer economic and should close, magistrates were told. They included the Bell at Meldreth, Melbourn's Old Elm Tree, The Royal Oak Fulbourn, The Lamb and Lord Nelson at Cottenham, British Queen Chesterton, Queen's Head Dry Drayton, Over's Hare and Hounds, Balsham Five Awls and Soham's Fox-in-Wood. But the licensee of the Green Man at Swavesey said he did not want to leave it. CWN 09 07 02

1909 11 05

Cottenham previously obtained its water from three surface wells and distributed it through earthenware pipes. But a soldier on furlough, who was a convalescent from typhoid fever but still a 'carrier' of the disease germs, came to visit his relatives in a cottages near one of the sources of supply and soon contaminated it. The infection was carried to 35 householders, six of whom died. Now many of the larger houses have water laid on, the Medical Officer reported. CWN 09 11 05

1909 12 31

Captain W.E. Morrison-Bell addressed one of the most remarkable meetings during the whole of his political campaign when he spoke at Cottenham. The audience was palpably out of all sympathy with the Conservative candidate but there was none of the disorder for which Cottenham is associated. Interruptions were confined to impromptu comments and occasionally the audience set up a discussion on their own account, but he received a fair hearing. CWN 09 12 31

1910 01 21

During the last week there has been a widespread and fatal sickness among the cats in Cottenham. Only one case as been explained as being due to pneumonia, in others the cause remains obscure. But it is suggested that the excitement of the General Election may have been a contributory factor. At any rate several households are lamenting the loss of their domestic pets and pressing for an inquiry into the nature of the malady, as the prospect of a catless community is too serious to contemplate 10 01 21f

1910 02 04



Since the Ortona Bus Company was established in Cambridge they have done much towards linking up the station and the town with outlying suburbs. A few weeks ago they commenced a service of motor 'buses to Trumpington, Shelford and Sawston and have now inaugurated another to Histon and Cottenham which has been well patronised by passengers 10 02 04m

1910 02 25

Cottenham communal farming records – 10 02 25k

1910 03 18

Licensing meeting – Over Sow & Pig, Willingham Black Horse, Chesterton White Horse, Comberton Red Lion, Cottenham Boot, Longstanton Red Cow, Milton Three Tuns, Shelford Three Tuns 10 03 18b

1910 05 06

Under the new Midwives Act no woman can habitually attend women in childbirth unless she is certified. There were 54 midwives on the register of whom 30 were trained. Ten of the untrained women were between the ages of 65-75 and might need replacing before long by reason of death or infirmity. There was only one trained midwife at Willingham and an untrained woman at Landbeach. There were none at Isleham, Burwell, Wicken, Upware, Milton, Cottenham, Swavesey or Histon. Some mothers can afford the fee of a medical practitioner but are unable also to pay the full fee of a skilled nurse and so may turn to unregistered women 10 05 06b & c

1910 05 20

It would be desirable if a scheme of scavenging could be devised for Cottenham, Willingham and Fulbourn where some of the houses are situate in confined areas. There being no proper sewer, the pail system of closet is largely in use and the contents of the pails are frequently emptied with the house refuse in one corn of the small yards adjoining the houses and frequently cause a nuisance injurious to health 10 05 20a

1910 07 01

Licences for: Bassingbourn Beerhouse in the fen, Meldreth Green Man, Fulbourn Coach & Horses, Chesterton White Horse, Cottenham Boot, all refused. Melbourn White Lion & Swavesey Little Rose renewed 10 07 01 & a

1910 07 22

Ely High Bridge having recently been reconstructed by the Isle of Ely County Council they offered the whole of the ironwork of the old bridge to Cambridgeshire County Council, suggesting it could be re-erected at Twenty Pence Ferry. Cottenham parish council urged acceptance. The county considered the costs of extinguishing any ferry rights and the new road required but declined the offer 10 07 22

1910 10 21

Thomas Hall, a motor bus driver, told the court he was driving to Cottenham at night when he heard a knocking beside the vehicle and saw two young ladies who told him to look out for a rope across the road. When he came to it he pulled up and put it on the side of the road so that no one else should run into it. It was a dangerous thing to do and might have caused serious injury to a cyclist. One teenage lad said they'd got a string and tied it to the railings. It would not reach across the road so they tied a can to it. They did not mean to do any harm and promised not to do it again. 10 10 21a

1910 11 04

Cottenham Parish Council discussed the condition of the fire engine. It should be mounted on wheels as a more convenient method of travelling than the van now in use, and two 40-foot length of canvas hose should be ordered. Heaps of street sweepings deposited in various parts of the village were unsightly and unsanitary and should be disposed of and the police should prohibit the discharge of fireworks on the public highway 10 11 04

1910 12 09

During the election campaign Mr Newton's meeting at Cottenham was interrupted by people making a tremendous din, hooting, shouting, singing popular songs and blowing mouth organs and tin whistles. Some rowdies resorted to the peculiarly offensive practice of throwing eggs but were unwise in their choice of targets for one egg struck the Deputy Chief Constable in the back of the neck. The disturbances were not confined to one side: during Mr Newton's meeting at Gamlingay a number of sparrows, decorated with the Liberal colours, were liberated and a cracker was thrown upon the platform which jumped about in the usual lively and erratic fashion before it was extinguished. 10 12 09b

1910 12 16

Messrs A.M. Robinson held their Christmas sale as usual at the Cattle Market. Amongst the prize-winners was Mr C. Butler of Swaffham Bulbeck whose five pigs were purchased by J. Prior, butcher of Burleigh Street. There was a fine show of hogs over ten stone which was won by W.A. Payne of Fulbourn with a special prize awarded to E. Gautrey of Cottenham. Mr Backler of Linton won in the sow class while Miss Camps of Chesterton was best in the cottagers' section, her hog being sold to Eastmans 10 12 16a

1911 03 03

Tom Wilson, a London bookmaker, told the court that he attended Cottenham Steeplechases and took a pitch near the course. He erected large boards with his name and picture on them, then stood on a stool and took bets despite being warned by police. There were 34 other bookmakers doing the same thing and none of them had been summoned: he had only been prosecuted because his banner was bigger than the rest. But a policeman said he'd approached each of the others and they'd all said they would not stop unless Wilson did. He was fined £20 – 11 03 03i & j

1911 03 17

Public house licences: Willingham 'Rose & Crown' \*& 'Black Lion', Swavesey 'Little Watch' & 'Black Horse', Dry Drayton 'Prince of Wales', Waterbeach 'Wheatsheaf', Impington 'Chequers', Cottenham 'Turks Head' – 11 03 17c & d

1911 04 21

It is nearly 50 years since the Wesleyan Church at Cottenham was built and the only Sunday School accommodation has been a tiny building at the back, holding just 30 children. Numbers have increased until there are nearly 100 scholars on the books and for a long time past the church has had to be utilised. Now the foundation stone of a new Sunday School has been laid by Mrs John Chivers. Even at Cottenham, a centre for nonconformity, the response to the appeal for funds has been remarkable 11 04 21d

1911 05 26

Cottenham new burial ground enclosed – 11 05 26j

1911 07 07

Some ten days ago a cat owned by Alfred Moule of Cottenham, being deprived of her new-born kitten, solaced herself by adopting a young wild rabbit. This on being discovered was promptly killed. A second one shared a similar fate. Still the cat persisted and introduced a third young bunny which has been allowed to remain and contentedly shares the nest with the one kitten that had been spared 11 07 07c

1911 07 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would



become a teetotaller. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed. Also Priory Tap, Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse. Bailey & Tebbutt's Gold Medal Ales on draught and in bottles can still be obtained at the 'Hop Bind' (the Commercial House), the 'Jolly Millers' (Church End) and the 'King's Head' (known as the Red House) and 'Garden Gate' in Histon Road, Cottenham. Ales and Oatmeal Stout cost two shilling and sixpence per dozen pints – Advert 11 07 14e

1911 08 11

Cottenham Wesleyans celebrated the completion of their new Sunday School with good attendances at all the meetings in spite of the fact that many were kept away through harvest. The up-to-date building consists of one large room having seating accommodation for 250 with a raised platform at one end. The children have played no small part in the project: at the laying of the foundation stone many of them presented guinea bricks while other gave chairs for the furnishing of the new building. A roll of honour hanging over the platform contains the names of those who contributed 11 08 11g

1911 09 22

William Edward Broadribb has been sent to Canada in the care of the Barnardo agency, by the Cottenham Habitation of the Young Helpers' League. They paid his expenses from collections made by the President, Mrs C. Hayden Cox at meetings held in her garden. The Habitation has only been in existence since June and now has 54 members. Members signed their names on a paper which is to be forwarded as a memento to William c/o Boys Distributing Home, Toronto. 11 09 22b

1911 09 22

With the exception of damson and late apples, the fruit gathering at Cottenham is nearly over and the trolley loads so numerous a week or two past, are becoming more rare. The season, especially in the Victoria plum pulling period, has been a heavy one for fruit carriers, over 50 tons a day being a frequent consignment from Oakington Station to London and other markets 11 09 22e

1911 10 06

Cottenham Constitutional Club, formerly the Victoria Institute, has been in use for six years as the village social club. Now it has been thoroughly renovated and fitted up for meetings, concerts, billiards, games and reading, with a new piano installed. A large balcony facing the street provides a very convenient point for addressing open air meetings It will become a real centre of political work and activity 11 09 29b, 11 10 06a

1911 10 20

A cow being brought home with others strayed un-noticed into the stack yard of Fred Cross at Cottenham. It was found firmly wedged between a brick wall and one of the Government telegraph posts. The release was a work of considerable difficulty, corn stacks preventing free access. Ropes were fixed to its body and she was dragged out by main force, much exhausted after 24 hour's struggle. Up to Wednesday the cow had not been able to move, except when helped by attendants 11 10 20c

1911 11 24

Cottenham memento of great fire of 1850 unearthed – 11 11 24h

1911 12 15

Cottenham ploughing society – 11 12 15

1911 12 15

Cottenham housing problems are acute, in some six persons slept in one room. There are 20 people after each house that comes available and if you hear that a man's dying if you don't go before he's dead you don't get the house. The RDC has offered to erect three-bedroom houses if the Parish

Council would bear a small burden of the cost. They would have a good garden to help a man pay the rent. But Landlords were concerned that their old cottages might then be left empty 11 12 15 & a

1912 02 23

Cottenham landlady & tenant – 12 02 23

1912 04 05

For some weeks a thick coat of very rough granite has made the centre of Cottenham High Street from Bank Corner practically impossible for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Some wit caused a small garden roller to be placed on the granite. This so aroused the ire of the authorities that it was seized. The steam roller proper has now arrived and it is hoped that its smaller brother may now be released. 12 04 05f

1912 06 21

The Cottenham miller said that when the landlord gave up in 1916 he'd rented the windmill from him but began to get behind with the payments about 12 years ago. One of his men embezzled money and then hung himself. That took all the money he was using for trading purposes and he never recovered. In Cottenham they'd taken to growing fruit instead of corn and that had made pounds of difference to him. Latterly business had got so bad he could not find the cash to send his cart out to get a load of stuff to keep at work so he thought it was time to do something. 12 06 21

1912 07 12

Cottenham road improvement – 12 07 12j

1912 07 19

The old windmill which for more than a century has been a familiar feature on the Rampton Road at Cottenham is being pulled down. It is the last of the four mills which up to about 25 years ago did a fairly good business in the flour and grist trade. Truly the old order changeth and milling as a village industry had departed. Cheese-making has long been abandoned, the malting business and the numerous local breweries are all closed and other industries, principally fruit, have taken their place. 12 07 19j

1912 08 30

Floods Swavesey, Cottenham, Royston, Melbourn, Arrington, Histon, St Ives – 12 08 30h

1912 08 30

Football meetings – Cottenham, 12 08 30l

1912 10 18

Charles Lack, head of the well-known firm of Messrs Lack & Son, engineers of Cottenham, died peacefully. He possessed an intimate knowledge of the geological strata and has advised various bodies in matters relating to water supply and sewage. A native of Willingham, he showed mechanical abilities of a high order and commenced business in 1871 on the same spot where the works enlarged and equipped on modern lines now stand. Conscientious in all his dealings, he was respected alike by employers and employed. In his home a devoted husband and father, he leaves five daughters and five sons to mourn an irreparable loss 12 10 18l

1912 11 08

Willingham Tabernacle has a reputation for activity which puts it amongst the foremost Nonconformist institutions in the county. Since 1909 a new organ has been fitted and now electric light has been installed with fifty-one metallic filament lamps of high efficiency all over the building. The electricity supply is derived from a dynamo driven by the Crossley petrol engine which was installed some time ago for the purpose of blowing the organ. The work was carried out by Messrs Lack of Cottenham at a cost of £170 (£15,700 now) 12 11 08e & f

1912 12 06

Cottenham materials of old windmill on Rampton Road sold by auction – 12 12 06g

1913 01 03

Cottenham Horse and Stock Club tea at Hop Bind Hotel

1913 01 10

Cottenham farm labourer death

Cottenham, Willingham & Rampton Drainage Commissioners lost prominent men – Ezra Male, Mr

Lack the engineer & Edward Few

Cottenham fancy dress dance

1913 01 24

Cottenham working class housing – Church Hill

1913 02 14

Cottenham Housing

County pubs closed: Cottenham Red Lion, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Girton White Horse, Harston

Pemberton Arms, Over Black Horse & Sow & Pigs, Swavesey Little Rose & Willingham Black Lion

1913 02 28

Death John Todd, Cottenham – leader of working classes

1913 03 07

John Todd, Cottenham Baptist death – gave evidence Allotments

1913 03 14

Licensing sessions - Over Black Horse – Frederick Webster, farmer employed a number of men who used the house; the yard was a great convenience for traffic, Sow & Pigs. Harston Pemberton Arms – people left horses when went away by train. Swavesey Little Rose. Dry Drayton Five Bells.

Willingham Black Lion. Cottenham Red Lion. Girton White Horse

1913 04 04

The Chamber of Agriculture dinner heard that Arthur Bull had discovered a document showing the agricultural condition of Cottenham before inclosure. The largest farmer had 59 acres in 139 separate pieces scattered all over the parish with no two plots joining. Three quarters of the parish was grass; a farmer sent his cows on to the common in the morning and could then amuse himself all day as long as he was ready to milk it in the evening. The cow did the rest. But it did not produce wool, so people had to keep a flock of sheep, most of which died of rot.

1913 04 11

Montagu at Cottenham

‘The same old Cottenham’ – no progress on Toryism

1913 04 11 p9

Parish council elections – all-night count at Cottenham

1913 04 18

Cottenham cesspool

Some excitement was caused at Cottenham by the descent of a balloon in a field of Mr Lewin’s on the Oakington Road. There were two occupants who hailed from Farnborough and were out for military practicing purposes. The balloon was packed up and conveyed to Cambridge station by Mr F. Norman

1913 04 25

Cottenham – Ivatt and improper glazed drains at cottages

1913 05 09

Cottenham 'Gothic House' home of Ivatt family sold

Cottenham housing

1913 05 16

Cottenham fire engine practice

1913 05 30

Cottenham purchase four acres land for erection 16 new houses

1913 06 06

Considerable sensation has been occasioned at Cottenham by the story of a servant girl being attacked, gagged and bound in broad daylight in her master's house, by a strange man who stole a purse and decamped without leaving a trace behind him. The attack took place at the residence of Ephraim Gautrey, a well-known farmer and seed-grower. She had gone to her master's bedroom with two pairs of boots when a man threw something over her head and tied her to the bedpost with a pair of Mr Gautrey's pants. He then ransacked every drawer. Mrs Gautrey was downstairs but heard nothing as she was washing a dress and the pump squeaked.

1913 07 04

Cottenham drainage commissioners report that a large amount of coal has been consumed due to the heavy rains and floods. The driver of the Smithy Fen engine had about 60 tons of coal in stock and the engine needed repairing. Some drains were in poor condition: on one occasion while water was lowered two feet nine inches in the drain at the engine it was only reduced three inches at Half Moon Bridge. Both engines should be repaired 13 07 04

1913 05 11

Cottenham fashionable wedding Clarke – Cox – long account

1913 07 18

Cottenham haystacks fire

Cottenham foal show

1913 08 01

Cottenham flag staff threaded

1913 09 26

Cottenham houses and land

1913 10 03

Soham parish council considered buying a new hand bier to carry coffins from the hearse to the cemetery chapel. There was one once but it stood unused and rotted away. But that was a very heavy and clumsy thing. There were several places where they are used – one in Cottenham cemetery. However councillors decided it was an unnecessary expense 13 10 03 p11

1913 10 17

Cottenham parade

1913 11 14

Public houses compensation awards: Melbourn Tailors Arms, Over Sow & Pigs & Black Horse, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Gamlingay Three Horse Shoes, Elsworth Three Horse Shoes, Bourn King William IV, Girton White Horse, Cottenham Red Lion, Willingham Black Lion, Shakespeare Newmarket Rd

1913 11 21

Picture Playhouse show 'A message from Mars' and film of Cottenham steeplechase

Sir – during the heavy rain Cottenham council school play yard was like a duck pond and unless infants could climb a six-foot spiked fence they had to wade through water over their shoe-tops. It is not every parent who can buy stilts or watertight boots for their children. If electors had put one mother on the parish council it would have been sorted out long ago rather than have children have to sit through winter lessons with damp cold feet. – 'Healthicus'

1913 11 21

Cottenham Ebenezer Baptist chapel reopens

1913 12 05

Cottenham cottage erection protest

1914 02 20

About 500 working men attended a parish meeting at Cottenham to discuss allotments. They hoped to acquire Christ College Farm as the college was willing to help the working people. Preference would be given to the young: it was them they wanted to get in the villages and if they were given a piece of land, they would stop at home. If the farm were let out it would maintain three times the people it currently did. It would bring more people back on the land than any other way 14 02 20g

1914 02 20

Racing at Cottenham.—The Cambridge University Steeplechases were held at Cottenham yesterday before a large attendance. A capital day's sport was much enjoyed, and the weather conditions during the greater part of the afternoon were all that could be desired. Shortly before the end of the programme, however, a drizzling rain commenced to fall. There were no serious accidents, but the open ditch brought many of the riders to grief. The going was heavy over some parts of the steeplechase course. 1914 02 20 CIPof

1914 02 27

Two brothers named Wright, engineers of Cottenham, met with an alarming experience whilst sinking a well at Arrington. The work had been going on continuously for a month and a depth of 200 feet had been reached. One brother was lowered in a bucket but it became evident something was wrong. The second brother was lowered but he too was overcome by the foul air. Men on the top caused a draught of air by briskly raising and lowering the bucket which revived one of the men who was able to rescue the other 14 02 27h

1914 03 27

The foundation stones of the Salvation Army Citadel in Tenison Road were laid by several prominent people and a large crowd gathered to witness the ceremony. The citadel will consist of a large hall accommodating 400 people with a band room, tea room etc. The bands of the Cambridge and Cottenham corps were present and accompanied the hymns. The weather was threatening but fortunately the rain held off until the final vote of thanks 14 03 27g

1914 05 01

G.P.O. workmen have been busy erecting poles for the extension of the telephone in Cottenham. Although this village was one of the first to have a public call office, thanks to the late Mr R. Ivatt, very little has been done recently to extend or popularise it, one of the obstacles being the cost of installation and the lack of free calls. Shortly we hope to 'ring up' Mr W.W. Phillips, G. Trundle and A.J. Sargeant 14 05 01a

1914 06 04

Cottenham cottages p4

1914 07 24

Cottenham foal show & sports

1914 07 24

Field Day.—The Voluntary Aid Detachments from Over, Willingham, Cottenham, Swavesey and Fen Drayton held a field day at Swavesey on Saturday last. The school was turned into a field hospital and a goods shed at the station into an entraining depot. Field kitchens were erected on the Green, and nurses in uniform were busily engaged in relieving the wounded. As the cases were operated and dressed, the field ambulance wagon removed them to the entraining station. – 1914 07 24

1914 07 24

Cottenham Foal Show. — The Cottenham Shire and Hackney Foal Show, held in the grounds of Mr. T. Ivatt and Mr. W. Coxall at Cottenham yesterday, was attended by a large company. Although the entries at this, the 29th exhibition under the auspices of the Society, showed a slight decrease in those of last year, the quality of the animals left nothing to be desired. The weather conditions were dull, but the threatening rain fortunately held off and considerable interest was manifested in the judging by those who lined the ropes of the ring— 1914 07 24

1914 08 14

Cottenham Red Lion sale

1914 08 14

Red Cross hospitals have been equipped throughout the county. At Cottenham 40 beds are ready at one hour's notice, 25 are ready for wounded at Histon Council School, Oakington has 15. At Waterbeach the Baptist Sunday Schoolroom is equipped as a hospital with nurses in uniform presenting a neat appearance. At Newmarket thirty beds are fitted in the King Edward VII Memorial Hall. Should 100 wounded men be sent further beds will be fitted in the Astley Institute, Town Hall and Technical Institute. 14 08 14 p8

1914 08 14

Seven Brothers for the Front. — Another instance of a whole family of brothers serving in the war has just come to notice. The family belongs to Cottenham. One brother is serving on a warship; another, who emigrated some time ago, is coming back with the Canadian contingent, four are already with their regiments, and the seventh has just left his employment with Messrs. Chivers and Sons, Histon, to join the colours. A sister is married to a bluejacket serving in the war. The mother, Mrs. Cundell, is naturally proud to give her sons for their country's service, and she herself is making flannel garments for the soldiers. – 1914 08 14 CIPof

1914 08 21

Cottenham Red Lion sale

Last Sunday Mr Arthur Savidge of Cottenham ran his bus to Cambridge to give the people an opportunity of seeing the large number of troops in the town. There was a full load of passengers and he has handed the proceeds to Mrs Hayden Cox for the Cottenham Red Cross Society's fund. The village of Rampton is doing its best and will equip beds while Miss Ivatt of the Manor House will provide rooms, fully equipped, if necessary

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 10 23

Cottenham Hospital Parade



1914 10 30

Sergt Lander told magistrates he visited Charles Thurston's cinematograph show on the Green at Cottenham Feast. There were 200 people inside but the five fire exits were covered with thick curtains and not illuminated. Mr Thurston said it was only a temporary building but was one of the best constructed in the country. Next night the lights had been put up. Another proprietor, William Biddall from London, was summoned for a similar offence. Both were fined

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley Cottenham – seven sons serving

1914 11 20

Death of Mr. A. W. Rose.—The news of the death of Mr. Arthur William Rose, of Market Hill, and Peas Hill, Cambridge, was received with widespread regret on Tuesday by a large number of friends. Mr. Rose had suffered from heart trouble for a considerable time, but he had been able to attend to his business up to Wednesday of last week. On that day he was caught in a rainstorm and contracted a chill, from the effects of which he never recovered. Death ensued at 6.30 on Monday morning. Mr. Rose. was born at Cottenham on November 1, 1868. He entered into partnership with Mr. Lawrence about 20 years ago, and together they carried on the business of a butcher at 37, Market Hill, and 22 Peas Hill. The partnership lasted for about two years, and on the death of Mr. Lawrence the business passed into the possession of Mr. Rose. Open-hearted and generous, Mr. Rose made a wide circle of friends in Cambridge, and he was held in the greatest respect by local tradesmen. About 15 years ago he interested himself in the formation of a Butchers' Association in Cambridge, and he was one of the foundation members. For a considerable time he was treasurer of the Association. He was a sidesman of Great St. Mary's Church. Mr. Rose leaves a widow and one son.

Cottenham & Grantchester – housing working classes

1914 11 27

Cottenham Constitutional Club billiards

1915 12 15

Cottenham VAD – group picture with names – 15 12 15c

1915 12 22

Three heroes meet at Cottenham VAD hospital – photo – 15 12 22c

1916 03 08

Sudden Death of Schoolmistress. On Wednesday last the villagers of Cottenham and Histon were shocked to hear that Miss Florence Todd, assistant mistress at the Cottenham County School, had died under somewhat tragic circumstances, being found dead in bed at her sister's house at Histon. The deceased (a native of Cottenham) had made her home with her married sister and brother-in-law (Mr. and Mrs. Albert Todd). Deceased was also attached to the nursing staff at "The Firs" Red Cross Hospital at Histon. She was apparently in her usual good health and bright and cheerful spirits when she retired to bed on Tuesday night. She slept with her niece, who, upon waking, was startled to find her aunt cold and looking very pale. She rushed into her mother's bedroom and exclaimed that her Aunt Florrie was very cold and looked funny in the face. She was found to be dead. Upon Dr. C. H. Cox, of Cottenham, and Dr. L. Davis, of Histon, conferring, it was deemed unnecessary to hold an inquest. Deceased was 40 years of age

1916 04 12

Sergeant wounded.—Sgt. Cecil A Savidge, Suffolk Regt., son of Mr. Arthur Savidge, market gardener, of Cottenham, was wounded on March 28. A bullet passed through, his left hand breaking three small bones. He was engaged in putting up barbed wire entanglements. He had been in hospital at Boulogne, and is progressing favourably

1916 06 21

New Ruston drainage pump at Cottenham – photo feature – 16 06 21b

1916 08 02

An Unpleasant Visitor. — A somewhat unusual visitor put in an appearance at the house of Miss E. Chivers, of Cottenham Road, Histon, on Friday afternoon in the form of a snake. It was over three feet long, and appears to have been in the house for some time before it was noticed and its discovery caused a mild sensation in the house. It was, however, ejected before any damage was done.

1916 08 16

Brothers Killed. — Two brothers, Pte. Harry Worland and Pte. Herbert Worland, of the Suffolk Regt, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Worland, of Cottenham, both fell in the war on July 1. Another brother was killed last December and another is lying wounded in hospital.

1916 12 13

Photo: inspection D company, 2nd Batt Cambridgeshire Volunteers, at Cottenham – 16 12 13c

1917 03 07

The Mail Cart - On Wednesday evening last the mail cart, which has been running for about 20 years between Cambridge and Willingham, via Milton. Landbeach, Cottenham and Hampton, could be seen making its last journey. Arrangements have now been made for the Cottenham and Rampton mail in future to come from Cambridge to Oakington station by train. Mr. Albert Young, of Rampton, has been appointed to fetch the mail from Oakington in the morning and to carry it to Oakington in the evening. Owing to these alterations, the Cottenham letters will be delivered an hour later than usual. The mail in the evening will so out at 8.45 instead of 8 o'clock, necessitating the posting of letters an hour and a quarter earlier than usual. The mid-day delivery will remain as before. There will in future be no delivery or dispatch on Sundays

1917 05 16

Cottenham Man Honoured.—At the conference of the London Teachers Association, on Saturday, May 5, the resignation of Mr. T. Gautrey, the General Secretary since 1879, was announced. He was thanked for his services and granted a superannuation allowance of £100 per annum. Mr. W. J Pincombe was appointed to succeed him at a salary of £400 per annum, rising to £600. Mr. Gautrey was one of the first pupil teachers in the British School Cottenham commencing his apprenticeship about 50 years ago. He worked under the Cottenham School Board for about 5½ years, commencing with a salary of fifty shillings per annum, rising 50/-each year, so that at the end of his apprenticeship he received for the last half year of his service the handsome sum of £7 10s. After serving under the Board at Cottenham, he had two years' college training at Borough Road., London. Since then he has spent the greater part of his life in London.

1917 05 30

Seven Days Labour,—Five Cottenham representatives attended the East Anglian Wesleyan Synod at Wisbech. The recent resolution of the Men's Own at Cottenham was referred to, and after an interesting debate, the following resolution was passed: "This Synod, representing large agricultural areas in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambs, desires to place on record its strong opinion that Sunday labour is no more necessary or beneficial in agriculture than it has proved to be in munitions. It protests on grounds of religious and social economy against the breaking down of the observance of the Lord's Day

1917 12 12

Married at Cottenham - an interesting wedding took place at Cottenham Parish Church on Wednesday last and attracted considerable attention. The bridegroom was Sergeant Cecil A. Savidge, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Savidge, Denmark Road, Cottenham, and the bride was Miss Tessa M. Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown, Pepys Terrace, Impington. Sergeant Savidge joined the 11th

Suffolks (Kitchener's Army) at Cambridge, and was wounded in France last year. He now holds a position as sergeant-instructor and is stationed in this country.

1918 01 09

Patriotic Publicans. — We are glad to notice that the publicans of this village (Cottenham) were patriotic and willing enough to make sacrifice by closing their houses for the sale of drink during Sunday

1918 03 13

Egg collection.—we feel we must make special mention of the work done by a Cottenham schoolboy named Frank Piggott in the way of collecting eggs for the wounded. He has done his round nine times and has gathered in 353 eggs.

1918 07 17

Cottenham Man Awarded D.C.M. — Pte. F. H. Webb, of the Yorkshire Regt., Sniper Section, (of Cottenham), has been awarded the D.C.M. for performing most valuable work in preparation for and during a raid. He reconnoitred an approach to the scene of a raid, obtaining valuable information. While within bombing distance, he completed his reconnaissance by examining the enemy wire, showing great coolness and courage. He acted as guide and took a prominent part in the capturing of several prisoners. His reports were of the greatest value. Pte. Webb has also been successful in winning the Italian Silver Medal. He formerly worked at the Century Press Printing Works with his brother-in-law, Mr. W. W. Westrope.

1918 08 21

The Harvest. — Harvest operations are in full swing (at Cottenham), and the weather is all that could be desired for the work of the binder. The oat crop is good where the land is well-farmed, but where otherwise the yield will not be very great. Peas are good, and the beans are about an average crop. The root crop, on the whole, is poor, and some farmers have had the experience of sowing three times.

1919 01 29

Cottenham funeral Mrs Haydon Cox, Red Cross worker – 19 01 29a

1919 06 18

Cottenham eviction scenes – returned soldier removed from cottage to make way for another who is son of the owner – 19 06 18d, e

1919 07 30

Double tragedy in Cottenham; husband murders wife with hatchet and kills baby with his fist – 19 07 30a, b

1919 10 22

Cottenham murder trial – man murdered 12-year-old child – 19 10 22b

1919 03 12

Retirement. — Many of the inhabitants of Cottenham will hear with regret of the retirement of P. C. Sanford which takes place on March 31. P. C. Sanford's service in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary covers a period of about 30 years, 12 of which were spent at ...

1919 05 28

Fruit Yield.—The fruit yield in Cottenham this year promises to be an abnormal one and many buyers from Covent Garden have already been visiting the district. Although Cottenham fruit is supposed to be always a fortnight behind Kent, and other southern counties owing to the dry weather things are just as forward in this district. Gooseberries sent to market have been in splendid condition and very large for the time of year. Strawberries also show great promise.

1919 06 18

Eviction,—Considerable stir has been caused at Cottenham by the eviction, from his cottage of a returned soldier to make room for another returned soldier, who is a son of the owner of the premises. The evicted man served with the Suffolk Yeomanry, and with his wife and child is now without a home of his own. The new tenant of the cottage was in the Hussars. The eviction was carried out under an order granted by the magistrates.

1919 07 02

Fruit harvest.—The recent rains have quite transformed the outlook as regards both fruit and vegetables at Cottenham. Even raspberries, which were looked on as being hopeless before the rain came, promise a good return. Strawberries also are much improved and with the high prices obtaining, are very remunerative. Much interest is being shown in the Christ's College Farm, which is let out in small tenements of acres and half acres. The scheme, when originated some four years ago, as will be remembered, met with a great deal of opposition from large landowners, and was generally considered a "white elephant." The success of the scheme, however, has exceeded all expectations, and the results of careful cultivation on the farm are enormous. In fact, the "white elephant" has grown feathers, and is now the "Goose that lays the golden eggs."

1919 07 16

Farming Outlook -There is no doubt that the recent rainfall which proved such a blessing to market gardeners and fruit growers in Cottenham, has benefited farmers but little. The crops are exceedingly small and farmers are also alarmed by the fact that there is an agitation going on for the control of hay and straw, which, if it succeeds, will reduce their profits to almost nil owing to the high wages.

1919 07 30

Double Tragedy. Cottenham was thrown into a state of great consternation last weekend by the discovery of a shocking tragedy, the wife of a small-holder being found in her kitchen at the point of death with terrible wounds in her head and her 13-day-old child lying in the same room dead from the effects of a blow on the head. The scene of the tragedy was a neat little thatched cottage a few minutes' walk from the Cottenham main street. A hatchet, which was used for chopping wood, was found on the floor near to where the woman lay. Upon this were bloodstains and human hairs, and it was with this, apparently, that the woman had been struck, down. The baby was found dead in a linen basket, close to the mother, who died in Addenbrooke's Hospital later. At the inquests on the woman and baby, 'Wilful murder' verdicts were returned. A man was remanded at Cambridge on a charge of murdering the baby.

1919 09 03

Constable's Promotion.—The many friends of P.c. A. E. Payne, of Cottenham, will be glad to learn that he has been promoted to the rank of sergeant, and will take up his duties at Stapleford in October, P.c. Payne joined the Cambs Constabulary in June, 1907 and was first stationed at Toft. He joined the Army on Sept. 23 1916, and proceeded to France, being severely wounded near Ypres in Nov. 1917 and spending several months in hospital. He was demobilised on March 11 this year, when he was stationed at Cottenham. Although the time he has spent there has been short, P.c. Payne has made many friends and become exceedingly popular both as a constable and in private life.

1919 09 10

Fruit Harvest. There is a heavy crop of plums (at Cottenham) at exceptional prices Rain and sunshine came at the right, time and the harvest is an extraordinary one. From one large grower we learn that whereas his gathering last season was only six half bushels, this season it is 100 tons from the same acreage and the price per ton is from £34 to £35. The apple crop promises to be a splendid one both as to quantity and quality. The yield of corn is only moderate. Threshed oats are yielding about 16 sacks per acre, although there are many farms in the district which are only averaging ten sacks.

1919 10 22

Jumped from Moving Train.— William Joseph K--- (36), smallholder at Cottenham, jumped from a moving train when being conveyed to Bedford after being found insane and unfit to plead at Cambs Assizes to the charge of murdering his wife and 12 days old child at Cottenham. He had a cut on the left side of the head, but was found to be quite conscious, and said he would go quietly. He walked from the spot where he had been found lying face downwards, and was assisted aboard and the interrupted journey was resumed.

1919 10 29

For the Hospital. Remarkable success attended the efforts of the Cottenham Parade Committee in organising a collection of fruit and vegetables for Addenbrooke's Hospital, the produce collected including 87 bags of potatoes, 10 bags of carrots, three bags of beetroot, three bags of onions, one bag of turnips, 22 eggs and 75 bushels of apples.

1919 11 17

Retirement,—The announcement of the retirement of Mr. John Bowers, who has for 27 years been bandmaster of the Cottenham Salvation Army Band, has been received with general regret. He is to be succeeded by Mr. Leslie Norman, who has recently been released from military duties.

1919 11 26

Poultry keeper's success. — At the recent egg-laying test in connection with the National Utility Society (1918-18), Mr. Albert Sanderson, Croft House, Cottenham, was successful in winning the bronze medal in Section 1 with five White Leghorn pullets.

1919 12 31

Medical Superintendent. Dr. T. C. Graves has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Ruhr Hill Asylum under the Birmingham Corporation. He is the eldest son of Mr. Wight Craves, M.R.C.V.S., of Cottenham, and an Old Persean.

1920 01 21

Cyclist with no light—At the Cambs. Divisional Bench on Saturday morning, Archie Ward, of Cottenham, was summoned for riding a bicycle without a light, at Willingham, on January 5th, at 10.30 p.m. He did not appear. P.c. French, stating the facts, said that when he stopped the defendant the latter replied that he could not get the lamps to burn, and thought that someone had been having a game with them. When he lit them, however they burnt all right.—A fine of 5s was imposed.

1920 03 10

March 10, 1920

Royal Show. — It is pleasing to notice the enthusiastic manner in which the Mayor (Councillor G. P. Hawkins), supported by an active sub-committee of the Borough Council, and other co-opted members are proceeding with the preliminary arrangements for the Cambridge "Royal" show. It has been decided that the Eastern Counties Farmers' Association Ltd., and Messrs. Gautrey and Sons (Cottenham) should supply the grass seed mixtures which it is necessary to sow on about 103 acres of the Trinity College Farm, situate between the line on the London and North Western Railway and Trumpington Road. The Committee desire to acknowledge the generosity of the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College in providing such an excellent site for the show, and to express their appreciation of the personal efforts of their agents (Messrs. Bidwell and Sons) and the tenants Messrs. Arnold Bros, and Mr. G. Duke to facilitate the work of the sub-committee in sowing the grass seeds, and carrying out the necessary preliminary arrangements to meet the requirements of the Royal Agricultural Society. The Hon. Treasurers report that in response to the first appeal for contributions to the Local Fund, the sum of £900 has been promised.

1920 08 11

Football - The annual meeting of the Histon and District Football League was held in the Histon Institute on Wednesday evening. Mr. L. R. Neaves, of Coton, occupied the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary of the League (Mr. J. Harold Peck), and there were representatives from the



following clubs: Willingham, Cottenham North End, Milton, Comberton, Histon Institute, Girton, Oakington, Cottenham, Horningsea and Coton. Apology for non-attendance was received from Over Hotspurs. Mr. John Chivers was re-elected president of the League, and the following vice-presidents were also elected, subject to their consent: Dr. J. M. King (Willingham), Mr. Arthur Rhodes (Histon), the Rev S. T. Adams (Cambridge). Dr. Balsam (Girton). Mr. F. H. Keats (Milton), Mr. T. F. Essex (Milton), Mr. Thomas Ivatt (Cottenham), the Rev. W C. Cooke, R.D, and the Rev. R. Smith (Histon), Mr. Philip Papworth (Oakington), Mr. John Papworth (Landbeach), the Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P. Mr. G. Rogers (Comberton), Mr. Gordon Baker (Girton), Dr. Ellis (Cottenham), Mr. B. W. Silk (Coton), and Rev. David Oliver (Over). Mr. A. T. Rogers was re-elected hon. treasurer and Mr. J. Peck auditor. Mr. J. Harold Peck was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. L. B. Neaves (Coton) chairman of the council. The secretary's report, which was very satisfactory, was presented by Mr. J. H. Peck. Over Hotspurs were the winners of the cup, with Coton runners-up. The treasurer's report was also presented, and showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Various alterations were made to the rules of the League and it was decided this year to present twelve medals instead of eleven as heretofore. The entrance fee to clubs this season is 10s. Entries close September 1.

1920 09 15

Cottenham carrier's cruelty to mare which did 14,000 miles

1921 09 07

Cottenham war memorial unveiling – 21 09 07a, photos 07b

Death Tom Savage, Cottenham farmer – 21 09 07c

1922 05 25

A heavy thunderstorm, which missed Cambridge, passed over the country districts accompanied by hail of enormous size. At Cottenham the deluge was most intense for about ten minutes. The hail stones measured 1 ½ (one-and -half) to 1 ¾ (one and three quarter) inches and some which were picked up were, it is said, as large as hen's eggs. Many panes of glass were broken in the greenhouses at Mr Gautrey's nurseries. Severe damage was done to the strawberry and plum crops. Other villages including Dry Drayton were deluged with torrential rain and hail of unusual size. At Caldecote and Hardwick windows were broken and the hailstones are reported to have been the size of walnuts

1923 05 25

"It is the most serious frost I remember for years", said a well-known Cottenham fruitgrower speaking of the frost which prevailed during Wednesday night. Seven degrees of frost were registered in many parts. Agriculturists and fruitgrowers in the county were dismayed to see the ground white with frost, and anxious inspection was made of crops to see what damage had resulted. There is no doubt that havoc has been played amongst many fruit crops, plums in particular seem to have suffered. Indeed, it is feared in some places that the plum crop has been entirely ruined. "Plums as big as horse beans are black as your hat", was the way one grower expressed it

1923 11 14

A very interesting series of demonstrations in apple grading was commenced in Mr A.E. Gautrey's packing sheds, Cottenham. The object was to call the attention of local growers to the enormous advantage of good grading and packing, representing as much as 5s. a bushel more to the grower, and enabling the British producer to compete successfully with overseas fruit. By good grading the buyer is able to rely on getting a package of fruit all of the same approximate size and weight instead of a jumbled up assortment of all shapes and sizes. Experience has shown that the public are prepared to pay for these advantages

1924 03 24c

Messrs Bailey and Tebbutt made application for possession of the King's Head public house at Cottenham on the grounds that the tenant had let the trade go down. The licensee said he thought it was because their beer was a penny a pint dearer than that of the house next door. The owners wanted another £9.16s. in rent which he could not afford, owing to bad trading conditions



1924 04 07c

Cambridgeshire county council resolved to recommend to the Secretary of State the protection of chaffinch, hedgesparrow, wren, robin and other insect feeding birds and their eggs in the parishes of Cottenham, Willingham Melbourn and Burwell for the special reason that these birds consume large quantities of insects which do enormous damage to the fruit growing districts.

1924 09 17c

The installation of the first apple grading and packing station in Ely, which has not been completed at Cottenham, should prove a great boon to local fruit growers. It is rather unfortunate that the apple crop is so light this year but it is confidently expected enough apples will be produced to give the venture a good start. Each grower's apples will be graded separately and the one with the largest percentage of first grade will receive the best price. The impression that appears to exist that all growers would receive the same price, independent of grade, is entirely erroneous.

1924 11 18c

Compensation was approved in respect of six licensed houses, which have been closed. They were The King's head, Cottenham, The Dolphin, Waterbeach, The Little Rose at Swavesey, The Coach and Horse, Linton, The Morning Star at Sawston & The Duke of Wellington in Cambridge, licensee Mr A.S. Scales where compensation was agreed at £1,000.

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The installation of the first apple grading and packing station in Ely, which has not been completed at Cottenham, should prove a great boon to local fruit growers. It is rather unfortunate that the apple crop is so light this year but it is confidently expected enough apples will be produced to give the venture a good start. Each grower's apples will be graded separately and the one with the largest percentage of first grade will receive the best price. The impression that appears to exist that all growers would receive the same price, independent of grade, is entirely erroneous.

1924 11 18c

Compensation was approved in respect of six licensed houses, which have been closed. They were The King's head, Cottenham, The Dolphin, Waterbeach, The Little Rose at Swavesey, The Coach and Horse, Linton, The Morning Star at Sawston & The Duke of Wellington in Cambridge, licensee Mr A.S. Scales where compensation was agreed at £1,000.

1925 02 18

"There is a town which men call Cottenham", said a speaker at Cambridge Union Society, "and those whose brains are wearied with much study repair to that paradise for relaxation". A man took to beagling for the avoidance of burgling, to steeple-chasing for the avoidance of stealing and to fox-hunting for the avoidance of foppishness. And yet there were those who preferred the blandishments of study to the sports of the open air. For the sake of scholarship it was his hope that fox-hunting, steeplechasing, beagling, fishing and other sports of the field would ever flourish in England

1925 03 02

In the course of his address on "How to carry on a village library centre" Mr Milner said that at Cottenham he tried to hire a warm room and did not hurry people. Some librarians mixed the books with the hope that a borrower would be led to read a non-fiction book. But that was a trick which would probably make a person stop away from the library. The librarian should not spend his time issuing books. He had far more important work than that – to talk to borrowers and interest them in books. Mr Chapman, Whittlesford, spoke of choosing books for borrowers and said he had been greatly praised for giving people good books, when he knew nothing about the books (laughter)

1925 09 05

In spite of the difficulties caused by the long drought in June and July and the recent heavy rains, the harvest in most districts will be up to the average; one or two even say it will be better. At Cherry Hinton twelve hours incessant downfall on August 4th have delayed the end of the harvest in some cases. Potatoes, mangolds and sugar beet look well on the low land where sown early, but otherwise they were checked by the drought and will prove a light crop. At Cottenham plums are a variable crop and light except in a few orchards where we hear of wonderful crops

1925 12 23

A meeting of ratepayers protested against the compulsory attendance of the children of Rampton at the elementary school at Cottenham. They object to their children, whom they cannot afford to appropriately clothe and feed, having to tramp long distances to school through slush and mud and in all kinds of weather. The children need extra clothing and boots, and the food they have to take with them costs more than if they were fed at home

1926 08 21

A father's objection to his child having to attend another village school to receive elementary education was related to the court. Rampton School was now a junior institution and children over 11 years of age had to go to Cottenham. An offer of a bicycle had been made in order that the child should attend school, but this was refused, as had an offer of 15s. (75p) per year in lieu of a bicycle. The judge warned that the child might be sent to an industrial school and would have to remain there until he was 16.

1926 10 08

The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire opened the newly-acquired hall of the Cottenham British Legion. The branch, which numbers over 100 members, was formed in January 1923 and a short while ago received a substantial grant from the United War Services Funds which enabled them to take over "Pepys Hall" as their Headquarters. They had given a lead to other villages in the way of halls and if others followed the villages would be "snowballing up" in the getting of halls

1927 06 04

A Cambridge Swifts Football Club player was suspended for a month for threatening the referee following his receiving "marching orders" in the final of the Cottenham Nursing Cup. Mr Smith, the referee said the player threatened to smash his brains out after the match after he had ordered him off for deliberately kicking the centre-forward of the home club on the thigh.

1927 08 06

Mr Lloyd George's tour in the rain of some of the Cambridgeshire smallholdings was evidence of his anxiety to gain first-hand knowledge of the problems faced on the land today. He described as "marvellous" the development of the holding of Mr David Easy, who started with three-quarters of an acre and now has 200 acres and a herd of 30 cows. Tea, taken at Mr Street's farm at Landbeach was "like a family party" and Mr Lloyd George found considerable interest that some of the articles placed before him for consumption were home grown or home-made. The tour continued to Cottenham and Willingham.

1927 10 28

Chesterton RDC considered the proposed erection of a bridge at Twenty-man's Ferry, near Cottenham. An application was received from Wilburton parish council that the bridge should be erected and the road be put in good repair. It would relieve the traffic from the Ely main road and relieve the congestion which was very acute on that road. They ought to get the feelings of the Cottenham people; the bridge would be a bigger benefit to them more than anybody else.

1927 11 25

A Cottenham drain had got into a very bad condition and was an offence, councillors heard. The matter had been raised in 1913 when the owner of the house was prosecuted and the magistrates had decided the drain was a sewer. At Ivatt Street there was a main road and a private street and two blocks of six houses nearby. Every pair of houses had a gully into which they threw refuse and that drained into the cesspool. The drain had got into a very bad condition and was an offence to all 12 houses, but the owner declined to take any steps.

1928 01 23

Ald L. Tebbutt objected to proposals for a bridge over the Old West River at Twentypence Ferry. Cottenham would be linked to two villages in the Isle of Ely – Wilburton and Haddenham, but he did not see that even Cottenham had very great interest in the matter. It was a very awkward road from Cottenham to Cambridge through Histon. There were so many corners at Histon – it was one of the worst places in the country. If they spent the money in putting Histon straight it would be of much greater benefit.

1928 02 24

Some time ago an application was made for the use of the Green End pond at Cottenham as a dumping ground for the parish, and permission was given. At a later meeting a communication was received from about 40 inhabitants living in the vicinity of the pond protesting and an inquiry was called. Only a few people attended but a further petition said it was the "one beauty spot" and that Cottenham "could not afford to lose its picturesque entrance". (Laughter). Chesterton council confirmed their decision that the pond be filled in.

1928 03 30

Owners of land served by Twentypence Road, Cottenham agreed to offer the sum of 30s. per acre as their share towards the cost of making the road a public highway as part of a scheme to make a through route to the Isle of Ely. The Isle of Ely & Cambridgeshire County Councils are considering the erection of a bridge at Twentypence Ferry.

1928 04 14

At Cambridgeshire magistrates court two Willingham men were convicted of stealing potatoes from their employer, farmer Thomas Langan, and each fined 10s. A London motorist was convicted of not having a road fund licence at Hauxton; the last licence had expired in June 1927; fined £10. A Dry Drayton man pleaded guilty to using a wireless set without a licence; he was unaware he needed one for a crystal set; fined 10s. Two Cottenham men were convicted of riding bicycles without lights and fined 7s.6d.

1928 05 23

A Cottenham farmer said that heavy post-war losses in connection with heavy stallions were the chief cause of his failure. He had started about 30 years ago at Mitchell Fen near Twenty Pence Ferry. During the war his farming operations were successful and he bought four shire stallions. But after the war horses went down slump, the country was flooded with horses from abroad and farmers would not breed horses. So he had his stallions on his hands and sold them; the four together for which he had paid over £350 did not make more than 80 guineas.

1928 06 01

Cottenham pond had been filled in at a cost of £42. The figure was quite staggering but an excellent job had been made and the village beautified so the expense was warranted. An insanitary place had

been cleared away – there had been talk of typhoid two years ago – and it was more economic than cleansing the pond in the long run. But it seemed that Cottenham had made a dump for their rubbish and charged the District Council with it. Nearly every village had a pond and they would all want them filled.

1928 07 18

An important scheme for the making of a new road from Cottenham to Wilburton and the erection of a bridge over the Old West River near Twentypence Ferry will come before the County Council at their next meeting. They considered a petition from inhabitants in Horningsea and Waterbeach that the council should take over Clayhithe Bridge and abolish the tolls but are unable to recommend the purchase of the bridge at present. It was only 11 ft 6 inches wide and could not be widened without being rebuilt; it would only carry a vehicle of an axle load of eight tons and the approach roads were difficult.

1928 08 20

It is a far cry from the White House, the home of American President Calvin Coolidge, to the old-world village of Cottenham. Some time back one of the Coolidge family unearthed the fact that they had originated in the village and the Rev Robert Moline instituted a search in the parish registers. He has sent the President a leather bible with a picture of the parish church on the back and a photograph of the original entry of the baptism in 1604 of little John Couledge. The family emigrated to America in 1631.

1928 10 03

The chairman of the Ouse Drainage Board came in for some heckling at a meeting at Cottenham. After the disaster in Southery Fen in 1915 and 1916 the work of the Board had saved the entire South Level from being flooded last winter. But Mr Wright-Graves said the value of the land had been brought down from £25 to £10 an acre. The tax was more than the occupiers could bear and it would be better to have a flood once in seven years.

1929 01 16

Sir – Cottenham and Histon parents who have children using the Ortona bus to and from school in Cambridge are perturbed at the condition in which the children arrive. They are compelled to travel on the top deck of the open-top bus when it is full at the bottom. This usually happens in wet weather. What prevents the bus company from sending a covered double-deck bus for their use? Children from Histon have an alternative to go by rail, which is considerably cheaper and are provided with a heated carriage and kept dry – A Parent

1929 01 29

A story of how a large family had been living in a tent of sacks and sticks was unfolded at Cambridge court. The man had not done any work for eight years and the woman provided for her family by hawking. They lived by wandering about the fen district camping out, and the only time the children had proper covering was when they were in poor law institutions. They had in a tent in Cuckoo Lane, Cottenham; it could not be called waterproof, on the floor was a small portion of straw and there was a foul smell

1929 03 30

Coun Rowley spoke of the serious pollution of Histon Brook. There was a stream of black sewage matter six inches deep. From this pollution he had lost two horses and another which was about to die and he had been put to very heavy expenditure for water. If water was taken from a pump at Cottenham fed by the brook it ate through the tubes in one hour. They should apply for an injunction against Messrs Chivers resulting in the stopping of the factory. But there were a large number of cottages, a large laundry and a butcher all discharging water into the brook crude, and not filtered as at Chivers. The pollution came from up the brook at Girton as well as lower down

1930 08 14

Hubert Gautrey a Cottenham motor car agent claimed £60 from Messrs M. Mack, motor coach proprietors. They had advertised two Gilford 1929 sunlight saloon coaches for sale. They wanted £1,120 per coach or £2,240 for the two and agreed to pay him £40 per coach commission if he found a purchaser. This he had done, but Mack's claimed the buyer had only paid £1,850 and they had reduced the sum to £20. 30 08 14c

1930 09 26

In 1924 the Ministry of Agriculture established a packing station at Cottenham as an experiment in the better marketing of fruit on co-operative lines. Growers were charged a flat rate per bushel for the handling of their fruit. Next year they formed an association and took it over. In 1926 and 1927 the apple crop failed completely but in 1928 they reopened the station, purchasing apples from other growers to keep it working economically. But they lost money and when the 1929 crop failed decided to wind up the business. 30 09 26a & b

1931 02 13

Licence Rose and Crown, Cottenham removed – 31 02 13b

1931 03 02

Three steam lorries, two with trailers, representing a weight of sixty tons were used to test the strength of the new bridge over the Old West River at Twentypence Ferry. There was a crowd of over a hundred interested spectators. Several motor coach companies are applying to run services over the new road between Cottenham and Wilburton, shortly to be opened to traffic, which will prove another link between the north and south of the county. 31 03 20d

1931 04 03

The first accident on the new Twentypence Road between Wilburton and Cottenham happened on Saturday. Mr Charles Lack and three passengers had been to view the new bridge and on the return journey failed to negotiate a severe bend with the result that his car skidded and finished in a ditch. No one was seriously injured. The car, an Austin 'six' was not badly damaged and with some difficulty was replaced on the road, Mr Lack being able to drive it home under its own power. 31 04 03o

1931 06 19

One of Cottenham's old houses overlooking the Green was entirely destroyed by fire. It was occupied by Mr & Mrs Thoday, who carried on a small general shop as part of their home, and was built of wood and plaster walls with a thatched roof covered with galvanised iron. Local firemen managed to fix up a hose on the water main but the pressure was feeble so water was pumped from Horace Gautrey's pond. They had to pull off the roof and demolish the walls to get at the seat of the fire. Ropes were attached to the roof corners and it was pulled off with a crash but the house was finally reduced to a smouldering wreck. 31 06 19a

1931 07 03

Sir – may I draw attention to the deplorable state of the pavilion in Cottenham 'playground'. It is intended for the accommodation of cricketers but is scarcely fit for the cows which have been making use of it. Players have to pack their clothes on the grass and it is unbelievable that a village of 2,500 should have such a wretched pavilion – 'Disgusted Cottenhamite'. 31 07 03b

1931 07 24

The annual Histon Feast Sunday parade was most disappointing, very few members of the friendly societies put in an appearance and there were no decorated vans or wagons. The Cottenham and Histon Salvation Army Bands stopped en route to play selections and there was a large crowd on the village green for the open-air meeting and the sacred promenade concert in the evening. 31 07 10a  
Reliance Coach Services of Cottenham had three coaches and had contracted to purchase another vehicle for £1,500. They operated services from Cambridge to Cottenham and Willingham; their buses ran five minutes before Ortona's but usually they waited for the Ortona drivers to start up and



then got away faster in their smaller vehicle. Now they planned a new service from Haddenham via the Twentypence Bridge. 31 07 24b & c

1931 08 21

Chesterton RDC approved a proposal to purchase the New Cottenham Gas and Waterworks Company for £4,500. As the original valuation had been fixed at £5,000 they had reached a fairly good bargain. Now the gas works will be conveyed to the University and Town Gas Light Company for £500. 31 08 21b

1931 09 25

Cottenham Old Meeting Baptist Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of its opening on 28th September 1781. Joseph Oddy, the 'father' of local nonconformity, went to live there in 1672 and gathered a congregation of men and women. Later Anne Rennew wrote 'sacred poems', (the first hymns to be sung in the old St Andrew's Street Meeting House), which she used to 'walk over to Cambridge with, to one Leonard Haggis, who wrote them down on paper'. 31 09 25h

1931 10 02

A public meeting at Cottenham agreed to protest against the large expenditure of public funds on the proposed village college at Impington. Officials were suffering from spendmania, it was time the whole thing was hit on the head and done with. It was wrong to transport a large number of children daily from the large village of Cottenham to the smaller village of Impington. If there was such a scheme, Cottenham was the place for it. 31 10 02j

1931 12 04

A pony and several fowls were killed when fire broke out in a barn at Church End Farm, Cottenham. It was thought a pig had also perished, but it was later found wandering about the field. Cottenham fire brigade were called but their pipes were not long enough to reach the water. Flames licked the walls of a bungalow 15 yards away and willing helpers removed the furniture while others formed a chain to pass buckets of water with which the side of the dwelling was kept damp. 31 12 04e

1931 12 11

Mr L.J. Parker of Reliance Motor Services, Cottenham, applied for a licence to continue to run a bus service to Willingham. Last year they carried over 19,000 passengers, chiefly workpeople carried on weekly tickets. Mr B. Washington of Littleport applied to continue a service to the Ely Beet Sugar Factory although last year had seen a substantial drop owing to big reductions in the factory staff. 31 12 11d

1931 12 25

Sir – is it not time that Cottenham Parish Council gave its inhabitants some safeguard against fire? Recently two fires have occurred and on both occasions the premises have been gutted. True the village possesses a contraption which out of politeness is described as a 'fire engine' but for the purpose of extinguishing a conflagration its value is nil. Recently a farmer borrowed it for flushing drains. That is about its full capacity – 'Safety First'. 31 12 25c

1932 07 08

Allegations of a bus 'war' between Eastern Counties and Reliance Coaches were revealed when Mr L.J. Parker applied to run an additional service from Cottenham to Cambridge on Saturday nights. Reliance charged one penny to garden workers between Cottenham church and Garden Gate, considerably less than Eastern Counties. But they claimed his vehicles were driven by men who were not licenced for public service work. 32 07 08d

1932 08 15

Cereal growing in Cottenham has reached the lowest ebb in living memory. Many acres of land have become derelict and present a sorry spectacle indeed. It suffered first in May from excessive wet, followed by prolonged drought and then the recent heavy storms. The farmer's expenses will again



over-ride receipts. Most fruit growers are disappointed with the crops, though the canners have taken a fair quantity, which has helped. 32 08 15c

1932 12 09

Floods, bad harvests and bad prices were blamed by the owner of Gravel Diggers Farm, Chittering at the bankruptcy court. For nine years he was also licensee of the "Gravel Diggers" pub, Cottenham Fen, but he did not sell a barrel of beer a week and it closed last September. The 1932 harvest was "a rum 'un", the most disastrous he'd ever had: his land was all flooded during May and he'd had to borrow money. 32 12 09d

1932 12 16

Growers assembled in large numbers when manufacturers of spraying machines demonstrated their products at Willingham. Kidd and Sons showed 'Mist-spray' power sprayers, Jeeps and Easy demonstrated 'Mortegg' spraying mixture while F.W. Peacock of Cottenham had a good display of 'Niagara' dusters suitable for greenhouses and rose bushes. 32 12 16b & c

1932 12 23

Cottenham and waterworks – Chesterton RDC to purchase – 32 12 23d

1933 01 17

The owner of Reliance Motors, Cottenham, sued Eastern Counties Omnibus Company for damages. They alleged he'd run two hackney carriage licensed cars between Cottenham and Midsummer Fair, picking up and putting down passengers en route. To use private cars or taxis as motor coaches was misconduct of a very bad kind. He had four motor buses and two taxicabs which he'd used that day for private hire, charging four shillings return. He produced his order book – written on blotting paper – as proof. 33 01 17 & 17a

1933 02 11

The mildness of the winter has given gardeners something to talk about. Even the frost has failed to kill off all the roses and some were in full bloom at Cottenham with the first snowdrops flowering between the standards. Flowers gathered before the frost set in and put into water have a more powerful scent than usual. But are these the first roses of summer or the last? 33 02 11b

1933 02 14

Cottenham gas supply meeting – 33 02 14

1933 08 11

A travelling posting-box has been started by the Post Office on the Eastern Counties' service which leaves Cottenham at 8.15pm. The letterbox is painted Post Office red and will be fixed on the front of the bus, giving a later posting time than is now the case. It will operate from Monday to Saturday and letters will be delivered in practically any part of England by the first post in the morning. 33 08 11

1933 12 30

Chesterton RDC is to transfer their headquarters from St John's Street to a floor of the old County Hall in Hobson Street. It is possible the new West Cambs RDC would also take offices and share the council chamber. Councillors decided that six houses at Rooks Lane, Cottenham were slum property and should be demolished as should four cottages in Lambs Lane even though they were watertight and the owner, who was over 80, spent most of his old age pension in keeping them in repair. 33 12 30

1934 08 06

The amazing story of a young Cambridge man's cycle raids on village churches unfolded at court. He left home in the mornings, leaving people to think he was going to work, and rode around the villages, forcing boxes, safes and drawers in the churches. He carried tools in a brown attaché case and when

spoken too professed great interest in the wood carvings. He'd raided churches at Cottenham, Eltisley, Harlton and Stansted as well as stealing a collecting box from the Cathedral Café, Ely. 34 08 06

1934 09 12

A quantity of earth has fallen from the sides of the Kirtling parish well and filled it up to above water level. Messrs Lack of Cottenham say cleaning it out and making good the brickwork was very dangerous and they were not prepared to undertake the work. They suggested a new borehole we sunk. A 200 gallon water cart has been hired from Pamplin Bros to distribute water from the main at Wood Ditton at a cost of one penny a pail full. 34 09 12

1935 03 01

A flight of three RAF aeroplanes were forced down near Cambridge. Two landed in rough fields near Dry Drayton and turned upside down. None of the pilots was injured. The other made a forced landing at Smithy Fen, Cottenham. The flight was of a very recent pattern single-seater fighters and had taken off from Duxford to practice for the Hendon Air Pageant. They ran into thick fog and received wireless instructions to make a forced landing. The squadron leader mistook a field of wheat for grass and turned his plane completely over on the rough surface. His flying helmet was covered with mud as a result of his skidding along upside down 35 03 01

1935 11 09

The licensee of the Wagon and Horses at Cottenham the court that a man planning to establish a branch the 'National Smallholders' Society' in the village had stayed several nights but had not settled the bill. A village dairyman said he'd paid five shillings to join the Society but had heard nothing more and did not receive a book of rules. Altogether 362 people had subscribed. Police saw a poster headed "National Smallholders' Society" in the window of a house in King Street, Cambridge and arrested the occupant. He was convicted for obtaining money by false pretences 35 11 09

1936 01 15

Cottenham children gathered at the school gates gazing at the remains of their school with unexpressed glee. The caretaker had been stoking up the fumes when he saw smoke coming from the senior boys' classroom. The floor collapsed and the contents of the room including two pianos were destroyed. The school shed was rescued from the wreckage of the belfry. The portion destroyed was erected in 1860 and is owned by the British School Trustees. The undamaged part is owned by the County Council and was built in 1875. 36 01 15

1936 02 22

Harvey's Church Farm Estate at Eversden & Harlton offers a brick-built bungalow with an acre of well-drained land suitable for nurseries, glasshouses or poultry fattening - Mr Creighton, who lives on the Estate, is an expert and would be pleased to show you the methods. The basis of a house is the foundations and the material comes from our own sand pits at Cottenham. We use Fletton Bricks and tiles fitted by the Marley Tile Company who give a 40 years guarantee with each roof. Window frames and doors come from Newsums of Lincoln, ranges and locks by Cakebread Robey & Co while Sir William Rose & Company supply the paints and distemper and electrical installations are carried out by A.W. Matthews of Mill Road, Cambridge. Advert 36 02 22d

1936 07 01

A large number of Methodists gathered to celebrate the anniversary of the Swaffham Fen Methodist Church. This is one of the outposts of Methodism, being situated about four miles beyond Waterbeach and three from Swaffham Prior. It is only reached with difficulty after travelling down lonely fen roads and crossing the river in an antiquated chain boat. It has been well served over a long period by the stalwart local preachers of the Cottenham circuit. Afterwards a picnic tea was held in the grass roadway near the chapel 36 07 01

1936 07 18

Samuel Fletcher, a Longstanton diary farmer told the court he had an old motor van that he used as a fowl house. He noticed that the radiator had disappeared; he considered it was worth ten shillings. A cowman's wife said that a Cottenham scrap dealer had offered a shilling for it. But he only gave her three pence together with another three pence for some old rags. Had she got the full amount she would have offered it to Mr Fletcher but as it was so little she did not bother about it. She did not think it wrong as the van was no good. The scrap dealer later sold the radiator for one-and-sixpence. 36 07 18

1936 08 27

Mystery surrounds the disappearance of a brilliant young organist, Johnnie Francis. Originally he was a musician in a theatre orchestra but when this was replaced by an organ he was given the opportunity to learn that. He fell out of work and made his way to Cottenham when Miss Maud Gautrey found him work picking strawberries. He was given an audition at the Rendezvous Cinema in Cambridge, borrowing clothes to replace his own worn outfit. He obtained the post at once and played there for a week before drawing his salary and walking out. He has not been heard of since. 36 08 27

1937 01 09

The Blue Book Directory of Cambridge, published by the St Tibbs Press, comprises not only streets, trades and names of residents but also a wealth of information and a portrait gallery of our civic fathers (and mothers). An endeavour was made in 1936 to cover the immediate environs, including Shelford, Sawston, Milton and Grantchester. Now it has been enlarged to bring in Girton and Cottenham together with details concerning new or extended streets on the outskirts of the borough. It is extraordinary good value for five shillings. 37 01 09a

1937 03 16

Cottenham Salvation Army Hall stone-laying – 37 03 16b

1937 07 19

Cottenham's new Salvation Army Hall was opened in the presence of a large gathering of supporters. It was a great day for the Army and the village itself. Money had been short and yet money was got and it was thought wise to build the hall a little before the final penny had been raised. It had cost a lot of devoted labour on the part of Major Dant, Captain Mitson and Adjutant Vowles. Now it stood looking mature and finished in every way. 37 07 19a & 20

1938 09 20

During a severe thunderstorm a ball of fire set alight two stacks at Mitchell Hill Farm, Twentypence Road, Cottenham. They were right in the middle of the farmyard but firemen stopped the flames spreading to the farmhouse and nearby wooden barns, using water from a pond. The lightning struck a wire clothes line strung between a corner of a barn and a tree then travelled back along an aerial wire to the barn and thence it fired the stacks. Stock, including a newly-born calf, was removed for safety. 37 09 20

1937 10 13

County Council proposals for the establishment of village colleges at Swavesey and Impington have been approved by the Government. But they reject plans for a new junior school at Cottenham: it would be better to use the money from Insurance to rebuild portions of the burnt down one. Negotiation would be opened with Cottenham Eleemosynary Charities for the purchase of land in Lamb's Lane. The County would also discuss with the Air Ministry about school-age children due to arrive in Bassingbourn in connection with the establishment of an aerodrome 37 10 13c

1938 02 16

Cottenham orchard owned by Jeeps of Willingham neglected by Gautrey family – 38 02 16  
Frost and drought have so affected the Cambs fruit crop that many growers are facing ruin. Many have no alternative livelihood and their distress reacted on the labourers – many hands are being discharged. Cottenham is nothing more than a distress area, hundreds of acres are going derelict. At

Bluntisham the position is piteous, many were on the verge of destitution. The plum and apple crop had been absolutely wiped out and the flower industry had also been badly hit. There had been nothing like it since 1884

1938 06 23

Part of the old school at Cottenham had burnt down; it belonged to the trustees and was just leased to the Council who'd insured the school. The portion razed was used as a public hall as well as an assembly hall for the school. The Council had postponed rebuilding to see whether they could get a junior school built in its place. But this cannot be done. The Trustees feel it should be rebuilt by the autumn. But it was an out-of-date school in an unsuitable location and the Board of Education must guarantee it would not then be condemned 38 06 23a

1938 07 01

Cottenham Social Retreat refused

1939 05 15

Cottenham King George V Memorial playing field opened – 39 05 15a

1939 11 30

Over possessed an obsolete Merryweather manual fire engine dated 1789 which with three lengths of unserviceable hose and eleven buckets was valued at £7 10s. Willingham's 1827 manual engine with trailer tank, ladders and hose was valued at rather more - £14. Other parish engines at Caxton, Cottenham, Horningsea, Oakington and Swavesey would be acquired by Chesterton District Council at the valuation price 39 11 30

1940 03 16

Cottenham manual fire engine for demolition – photo – 40 03 16a

1941 09 26

Golden Wedding, — Congratulations were received by Mr. and Mrs. T. Burgess, of Mill House, Histon Road, Cottenham when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Sunday last. They are both active and enjoy good health, and they have one son, one daughter and one grandson. They spent their anniversary quietly at home with their family.

1941 10 24

Diamond Wedding. — Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers, of 8 Brampton Road, Cottenham, celebrated their diamond wedding on Saturday. Of their nine children, four sons and three daughters are still living, and they have ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren-

1942 01 16

Death of Q.M.S. Hopkins.—The sad news was received this week by Mr. and Mrs. William Hopkins, of 33 Oakington Road (Cottenham) that their youngest son, Quarter-master Sergeant Reginald Hopkins, who has been serving in India with H.M. Forces, passed away on January 7, after contracting fever. Quartermaster Sergeant Hopkins, who was 25 years of age, enlisted in the Army 10 years ago; he has served seven years in India. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins have two other sons serving in the forces.

1942 01 16

Three preachers at Oakington, — A recent note of mine (says Watchman) has brought me the following interesting letter from Mr. H. Young, 5 Rampton Road, Cottenham.—"I was interested to read your account of a burial in an orchard at Waterbeach. At Oakington three Nonconformist preachers were buried in a garden near the parish church. They were the Revs. F. Holcroft, died 1692; Joseph Oddy, died 1697 and Henry Oasland, died 1711. Can any reader remember the date of the great Commemoration Festival held in a field, belonging to a Mr. Morris, to do honour to the memory of these three Nonconformist preachers? Dr. Green of Cambridge

presided; the speakers were the Revs. J. C. Wells, of Cottenham; Flanders of Swavesey; King of Gransden; Neal of Waterbeach; Parish of Cottenham; Shaw of Over; and Mr. J. Smith, of Willingham, I have in my possession a book giving an account of the day's proceedings, and it would be interesting to know how many years ago this was. More than 2,000 people are said to have been present"

1942 04 19

£300 per Acre. — An acre of orchard land at Cottenham was sold by auction on Thursday evening for £300. The occasion was the sale of the land and orchards of Mr. Wm. Bicheno and other property, and the land Concerned was in Beach Road. Cottenham.

1942 06 29

Cottenham Methodist Rally, Swaffham Fen; although the chain boat at Upware was shaky and taking water badly the Ouse was crossed by many but others decided to try out the new concrete roads – 42 06 29b

1942 11 13

Famous General. — I learned with great interest this week (writes Watchman) that Lt. Gen. S. Rowell, commander of the Allied Forces which recaptured Kokoda, New Guinea, who was pictured in the National Press some days ago, has associations with Cottenham. Writing from Dulwich, Mr. T. Gautrey states: "During his military training in this country, he was a frequent visitor to Cottenham, and spent one holiday picking fruit in the Histon Road orchards. At the beginning of the war he was promoted to General - the youngest in Australia. His forebears were emigrants from Cottenham about a century ago and settled in South Australia and grew fruit; some of the family are still doing so. The family, now much increased, have been remarkably patriotic, four of them went voluntarily through the South African campaign at the end of the last century and eight came to assist during the Great War, Several, among them Gen. Rowell, are helping in the present, war. The emigrants lived in Church End, and their barn was the original meeting place of one of the Baptist chapels.

1943 10 22

Married Sixty Years.—Mr. and Mrs. William Gifford, of Histon Road. Cottenham, celebrated their diamond wedding on Feast Tuesday. They were married on October 16, 1883, on Feast Tuesday, of the old village feast week at the parish church by the Rev Mr Barker, and they have lived in Tottenham all their married life. Mr, Gifford is 83 and Mrs Gifford is 79, they are both hale and hearty and are a grand old type of country people. Mr. Gifford hap completed 75 years' work on the land, and can still be seen every fine day working on his plot of land, and in the summer, with Mrs. Gifford, gathering in the fruit and vegetable crops, including the back aching task of picking strawberries. In his younger days he was an expert ploughman, and won several prizes at local ploughing matches. Of their family of five, two sons and a daughter are surviving, and they have one grandson. They lost one son in the last war and one son died previously to that. They spent a happy time on Tuesday with members of their family gathered around them.

1943 11 19

Minister's Departure.—The Rev. J. Stanley Swain, Minister of the Old Meeting Baptist Church (Cottenham) has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate at the Baptist Church, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, and hopes to commence his ministry there on the first Sunday in January.

1943 12 31

Folk Museum receive Cottenham cheese press – 43 12 31a

1944 05 05

Street Singer. — Mr. Fred Gibson, of Little Downham, who sang in the streets of the village (Cottenham) on Sunday raised the splendid sum of £44 3s. for the Red Cross. The money was handed

to Lady Brackenbury at the end of the day and was later forwarded to the Cambridge Red Cross headquarters.

1944 05 26

Old Guides meet Chief Guide— Many old Girl, Guides on Sunday morning had the pleasure of meeting Lady Baden-Powell (Chief Guide), who had been staying with Lady Brackenbury at Mitchell House (Cottenham). Members of the Cottenham Company, who were unable to see the Chief Guide at a rally at Cambridge, formed a guard of honour on the lawn as Lady Baden-Powell left Mitchell House for Ely.

1944 10 20

Golden wedding.—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ward, 57 High Street, Cottenham, celebrated their golden wedding on Sunday. They were married at the Parish Church on October 15. 1894. Both enjoy good health, and they have three daughters and six grandchildren. They celebrated their anniversary with a happy family party.

1944 10 27

Oldest Ploughing Society?—The Cottenham and District. Ploughing Society, which claims to be the oldest in the country, will carry on its tradition and hold a ploughing match next month. Their last match was in 1939. The secretary (Mr. E. Blunt) tells me (says Watchman) that, before the war, a running commentary on a ploughing match was being given by the B.B.C., the commentator stating that the ploughing society in question was 64 years old and believed to be the oldest in the country. Mr. Blunt wrote to the B.B.C. saying that he had proof that the Cottenham and District Society had then been in existence for 84 years. He duly received an apology from the B.B.C.

1944 12 01

Revived Ploughing match. — "There was a number of specially interesting features at the highly successful ploughing match held at Cottenham last week by the Cottenham and District Ploughing Society—claimed to be oldest of its kind in the country. One feature remarked about was the fact that, here were 24 horse ploughs despite the growing increase of machinery, and another cause for comment was the large attendance of spectators—between 500 and 600, the largest crowd seen at the event for a great many years. Considerable interest, too, was centred in the newest type of plough, the "Auto-Culto," which takes the place of two horses. Messrs. Olivers' ploughman. Mr. P. Bowers, won a cup and two shields. The events in which he competed were open to ploughmen from all over England. It is not usual for three prizes to be won in the same match.

1945 03 30

Football. — Willingham Juniors completed a double over Cottenham at Willingham on Saturday in the Cambs. Minor League. Willingham missed several good chances before Jeffrey flicked a loose ball into the net. Cottenham attacked, but finished badly, although towards the interval both goals had narrow escapes. In the second half Willingham had the balance of play. Jeffrey scored again with a splendid cross shot from a pass by King, and Few whipped in a third goal after a shot from Ingle had been blocked. Cottenham improved, but could not penetrate. Lee played well at full back for Cottenham. The final score was 3-0 to Willingham.

1949 03 01

March, the month of winds, came in like a lion – with a gale that touched 82 mph this morning. There were the usual casualties amongst trees and chimney pots but the narrowest escape was that experienced by Mr D. Pulford, an agricultural engineer, at the Chequers Inn, Cottenham. He was uninjured when a 20-foot chimney stack collapsed and about half a ton of bricks fell onto his bed, driving its legs through the floor of the room.

1950 08 31

The post office proposes to introduce the 999 scheme for emergency calls as from today at exchanges in the areas of Bottisham, Comberton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Shelford, Haddenham & Waterbeach.



The system enables a caller by dialling 999 instead of 0 to secure the special attention of the exchange operator for emergency calls. Special equipment has been installed at the exchange so that when 999 is dialled an emergency lamp and loud buzzer will indicate to the operator that the call is especially urgent.

1950 10 28

Historical documents dating from the 13th century to 1944 have been deposited with the County Archivist during the past year. He is particularly pleased to report the minute book of the Cottenham parish invasion committee 1941-44. "For the benefit of future historians, it is most important that such archives should be preserved", he observed.

1951 03 28

Councillor L.T. Smith objected to the money spent on planting trees on housing estates at Cottenham where four trees cost £3. He said: "I think it is a scandalous thing. At Cottenham we are full of trees and we had to waste the architect's time to come and plant these. If we had brought the rents down only a penny a week it would have helped people much better"

1951 04 25

Chesterton R.D.C. agreed to meet the County Surveyor regarding the cost of measures to avoid flooding at Cottenham. Captain Johnson said there had been flooding to such an extent during this winter that water had gone into houses. The extra water which resulted in the flooding was entirely due to the building works of the RDC and County Councils & he thought the county should pay half of the cost of relaying the 16th public drain as far as the Green

1951 07 26

Purchase of the Cottenham police house in the High Street and adjoining land for £1,350 was recommended; if a new house is erected in Telegraph Street the existing police house may be sold. Messrs H. Edwards tendered £5,650, for the erection of two houses at Newmarket Road, Wood Ditton in place of another which had been previously approved. Tributes were paid for the courtesy and kindness of all ranks of the police towards the travelling public attending the Royal Show.

1951 12 14

For the first time, winners of ploughing societies' matches in the county met to decide the champion ploughman. The winner was M. Bowers of Cottenham who received the Championship cup and the cup for best work in the horse ploughing class. The youngest ploughman on the field, 14-years-old G. Bailey of Willingham bowed to a more experienced man when he was placed second to J. Hammance (Sutton) in the heavy tractor class, but he did have the pleasure of beating his father, E. Bailey, into third position. E. Blunt of Cottenham was first in the light tractor class.

1952 08 7

Jubilee celebrations were held at Rampton Free Church Mission Hall. Mr William Coles said he could clearly remember the laying of the foundation stone and the opening ceremony. Rampton held an important place in village life around it. It was squeezed between two villages, Willingham and Cottenham, but like a jam tart, the best is always in the centre

1952 10 01

The Hop Bind public house, Cottenham, had an extra visitor – a pony. 'Dixie' made straight for the bar and waited while the landlord (Mr G.H. Mundy) pulled her a generous pint of mild. With a thirsty look in her bright eyes she made light work of it. Dixie's owner is Mr Carl Dane who discovered her when she was being shipped to Belgium for carcass meat and bought her for £15. Mr Dane, who was travelling with a circus, trained the pony who can jump over a table of crockery and play the zither with her tongue. But when it comes to beer drinking she does it for pleasure – and doesn't like to be kept waiting

1953 09 12

The drainage rate to be levied on the Allottees of the Cottenham Inclosure Award has been reduced by ninepence now that the Old West Internal Drainage District Scheme has been approved. It provides for the abolition of the Cottenham, Rampton and Willingham Drainage District but there is no provision for the disposal of surplus moneys and is unlikely to commence before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1954.

1954 05 24

Sir –Thousands and thousands of pounds have been spent at Histon: we have had a canteen at the Junior School, new houses for Impington College, new Police houses & a sewerage scheme which does not work. More has been spent on the road near Histon station which appears to have narrowed rather than widened it and the road to Cottenham, where no building is allowed, has been beautifully tarmaced. We are very grateful but the paths have potholes and we really need a bridge over the railway at the station for cyclists and pedestrians – a Mere Ratepayer

1954 06 14

Despite continuous rain a large number of spectators watched the Cambridge Centaur Club's grass track meeting at Cottenham. It is doubtful if such an impressive array of established grass track riders had ever been assembled at any one meeting. The local scramble star from Girton, Andy Lee, fell from his machine in the path of a following rider who was unable to avoid him and the race was stopped while Lee was borne away by stretcher. After medical attention he was able to return and rode in a later race when he received an ovation from the spectators.

1954 07 01

Some villages have been 'jumping the queue' with main sewerage ahead of Cottenham, a councillor claimed. They had been promised a main drainage scheme some 25 years ago and the drains are in such a deplorable condition that nothing can be done. Their only sanitary accommodation is an open cesspool a few feet from the kitchen door. With all the new development sewage was the utmost priority. But there were major problems at Lt Shelford where 47 per cent of people don't have sinks in their homes and this was a matter of urgency on public health grounds. Pampisford was promised water seven years ago but the village is still not supplied & now Whittlesford parish council has also asked why slow progress was being made there

1955 01 19

A Cottenham man, H.A. Harvey, is planning to run a 'Poor Man's Tour' to the Continent by luxury coach. A Belgian tour will cost £22 and people could be picked up at Histon. This will save having to make a horrifying journey across London to reach the coach station. But Barton Transport, Eastern Counties and Mr H. Richmond objected. One said that in spite of wide advertising last year they had only received six firm bookings and there was not a great deal of Continental traffic from Cambridge. British Railways say that they would not expect a great demand for excursions in this area.

1956 01 14

All previous records were beaten at the National Boat Show, Olympia. Granta Floating Boats of Cottenham have taken an order from a Finnish company for 100 of their new outboard motors and also sold 50 of their canoes – the works should be busy for a long time to come. Appleyard Lincoln and Co boatbuilders of Ely booked their entire hire fleet for most of the summer and a revolutionary new boat developed by Aero Research of Duxford is to be mass produced in America. 56 01 14a & b

1957 02 14

Six girls dressed in attractive costumes acted as hostesses as Dutch Dairy Week was launched at a reception where members of the local grocery fraternity tasted a variety of cheeses. It was a pity that so many famous cheeses had gone out of production, among them the local 'Double-Cottenham'. A Dutch caravan will be stationed on Peas Hill where people can sample as much as they could take.  
57 02 14

1957 02 18

Cambridgeshire Harriers held their annual Point-to-Point meeting at Cottenham. The rain clouds rolled away to provide a sunny, smiling greeting and despite petrol difficulties the attendance seemed unaffected. The going was very sticky; of the six horses that started the first race only one reached the finish. 57 02 18a

1957 04 30

Mrs Gwendolen Mary Raverat of The Old Granary, Silver Street, engraver, artist and granddaughter of Charles Darwin died in February, leaving £1,000 to her housekeeper, Florence McMonagle, with another £1,000 to her indoor and outdoor servants. But Cottenham WI feel that such wills should not be published in newspapers without the executor's consent. To the strain of bereavement is added the embarrassment that your private business is an item of news and probably gossip. 57 04 30a

1957 09 30

Cottenham's new fire station is the third to be opened by the County Council since 1948, following Linton and Soham. They also have a new fire engine with four-wheel drive, now all that is needed is a drill yard and training tower. 100 years ago the village had its fire brigade with an appliance pulled by horses. Now they have the most modern machinery manned by volunteers who could be called away from their work at any minute 57 09 30 & a

1958 01 16

William Coles of Cottenham, the oldest active lay preacher in Cambridge Methodist Circuit, has celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He began preaching 68 years ago in the Cottenham Circuit and has continued every since. During the past year he has preached in Histon and Willingham chapels as well as the Salvation Army hall in Cottenham. He has also presided at Rampton Mission Hall 58 01 16

1958 07 04

Farmers and smallholders are facing serious financial losses caused by flooding at Cottenham fen. About 400 acres are under water and crops worth thousands of pounds have been ruined after a large public field drain on the boundary with Rampton burst its banks following days of heavy rainfall. Farmers say the drain had not been draglined for ten years but that the River Board had adopted a 'Blow you Jack' attitude and refused even to loan their pumps. 58 07 04

1958 07 02

Floods, Cottenham – 58 07 02

1958 07 17

Cottenham flooding – 58 07 17

1958 08 02

Farmers and smallholders who suffered as a result of the recent flooding around Cottenham were visited by an official from the National Farmers' Union. Many have lost up to 75 per cent of their total crops. F. G. Ambrose suffered damage to his potatoes and strawberries while D.C. Worland's pyrethrum crop was badly affected. The Great Ouse River Board has built a new bank at the bend in the Cut where the water overflowed but ditches nearby were still choked with weeds and foliage 58 08 02

1958 08 04

I journeyed to Cottenham recently and was mentally steeling myself for that endless succession of right-angled bends through Histon village. Instead I found a well aligned bypass starting a short distance on the Cottenham side of the 'Chivers' railway crossing and missing Histon village completely. Whoever built this wonderful stretch of road must have kept it very quiet for not even the gas, water and electricity people have dug little holes in its virgin surface. It will make the task of those hauling guided missiles into the secret depths of the Fens much easier! Until now those Histon bends must have looked formidable 58 08 04

1958 08 23

Cottenham area flooding – 58 08 23

1958 10 29

Cottenham Labour Party marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner addressed by F.T. Willey, MP, who had taken up the cudgels on behalf of villagers who had lost fruit in the floods and tried to persuade the Minister of Agriculture to give some assistance to those who had lost their all. In his speech he compared the flooding this year with the disaster of 1947 when a Labour Government had acted to help those who had suffered. 58 10 29 & a

1959 01 09

Arthur Cundell from Cottenham was well-known for his great interest in local government. He served continuously on Cottenham Parish Council since 1907, was chairman many times, opened the Recreation Ground and worked continuously to obtain a sewage scheme for the village. He was elected to Chesterton RDC in 1919 and subsequently retained his seat against opposition at every election. He served on all committees and was elected chairman in 1942. 59 01 09

1959 04 22

The 'Miss Cambridge 1959' contest promoted by Billy Pearce attracted ten entrants. Winner was Pauline Badcock from Cottenham, who is a punch card operator; second was Norma Bullen of Waterbeach, a bank clerk and third Frances May of Cambridge, an insurance company clerk. All three will go into the final to select 'Miss Cambridgeshire 1959' at Linton Village College. 59 04 22c

1959 06 13

William Coles, 91, has been a Methodist lay preacher for 70 years. He moved to Cottenham in 1888 to work in a baking business which his son now runs. He neither smokes nor drinks which accounts for his unblemished, smooth skin and extraordinarily young voice. He thinks young people stay away from church because they do not like long sermons, so he stops as soon as he sees anybody looking at their watch. His father, who lived till he was 103, was himself a lay preacher for 50 years. 59 06 13

1959 09 15

All Saints' Church, Cottenham, will soon proudly display new wrought iron gates through the generosity of the Church of England Men's Society. Designed by Mr F.T. Morris to be both functional and beautiful, they were made by two village craftsmen, George Lack and D.J. Cossington using traditional methods of construction. They replace iron gates which were requisitioned during the war and will be dedicated by the Bishop of Ely. 59 09 15

1960 03 25

Cottenham daffodil picking 60 03 25b

1965 08 11

Ernest Draper from Cottenham has been a knife grinder for fifty of his 61 years though it was only six years ago that he changed from pedals to a mechanical means of operating his knife-grinding machine. Daily he can be seen with his bicycle pulling his machine around the Cambridgeshire countryside. His work takes him on a journey of about 50 miles and it takes six months to complete one circuit. 65 08 11

1960 12 16

Cottenham's part-time firemen give up a good deal of their leisure time to training and spend every Sunday morning in practice. They are mostly mature, married men and the pay is slender. They respond to about three incidents every fortnight including laborious peat fires near the railway embankments where there is as much digging as fire-fighting with the danger of falling into deep, smouldering loam. There is also an ever-present danger from the aircraft leaving and entering the two nearby airfields. The converted lorry formerly used as a fire engine, carrying a 400 gallon water tank, has been replaced with a streamlined vehicle developed for their special needs. 60 12 16

1960 12 29

Sir - Work is about to begin on a new school adjoining Cottenham village green. A fifteenth-century house, a Victorian farmhouse and the most substantial barn in the village are to be pulled down. But these could have been adapted to provide a warden's house and gymnasium effecting considerable financial savings and preserving the whole character of the green – T.N. Morris 60 12 29a

1960 12 31

Colonel R.P.W. Adeane, who farms extensively in the Babraham area has been made a Knight Bachelor in the New Years Honours List for services to the Tate Gallery. The OBE goes to Clement Norman Gautrey of Cottenham, one of the county's foremost supporters of Civil Defence since 1960 with an MBE to Cyril Thomas Pack, assistant postmaster at Huntingdon, W.O. Hicks the chef at Ely RAF Hospital and James Helm of the Isle of Ely Fire Brigade. Alan Rawsthorne is awarded the CBE. He writes instrumental work and composed music for the Saffron Walden festival of arts in 1958 60 12 31

1961 09 08

Oakington was unsuitable for major residential development, the County Development Control Officer told an inquiry. It had mains electricity, gas and water but a sewage system was not expected for three or four years and the school was already overcrowded. There is a distinct danger of development outstripping the services available. Cottenham, Girton, Histon and Milton were more suitable. But there were swarms of builders after any land for which planning permission had been granted. The developer said there was a heavy demand for houses in the £2,000 range and he would install an estate sewage disposal system 61 09 08a

1962 03 21

Rampton County School will probably close when the headmistress, Mrs J. Haird, retires at the end of the summer term. The pupils would be transferred to Cottenham where a Village College will open shortly taking children over 11 years of age from surrounding villages. This will leave the Cottenham County School available for primary education. There would be no real opposition but if there was a public inquiry could be held, councillors were told. 62 03 21

1963 01 11

The GORB decided to raise the banks of Cottenham Lode; maintenance work has been carried out and the provision of a flapped culvert at the end of Reynolds Drain had prevented flooding. But surveys show overtopping would occur. 63 01 11

1963 09 04

With eleven airfields within a 25-mile radius of Cambridge no-one is immune from the noise. But few experience such consistent interference with their sleep as the villagers of Cottenham, Girton, Histon and Dry Drayton which lie on a circuit used by planes of the flying school at Oakington where the night flying programme goes on until three o'clock in the morning. Residents have complained to MP Francis Pym but the Air Minister says the noisy Varsity aircraft cannot be moved to another station. 63 09 04

1963 10 31

The new Cottenham sewerage scheme will serve more than 1,000 people in Cottenham and Rampton, with four pumping stations as well as a disposal works. During construction they had discovered a network of old village drains, most of which were unrecorded. They were not laid in straight lines and were provided with few manholes. It means that half the villages in Chesterton RDC's area are now connected to main sewers with other schemes planned for the New Year. 63 10 31

1963 11 07

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother said the new Cottenham Village College was opportune; in the years ahead there will be people going out to work at the age of 15 or 16 who in their more mature

years would want to develop their interests. With increased leisure demand would increase and she was confident Cambridgeshire would play its part in new developments. She spoke to some children, then planted a copper beech tree 63 11 07a

1964 01 06

A Cottenham-based firm have come up with the not-so-dusty idea of pre-packing high quality coal so the housewife can carry it home with the shopping. Now 100 tons a day are distributed in polythene bags which can be placed on the fire and will burn for three hours. Cottenham was chosen as it is midway between the Midlands coalfields and the London market and the firm employs up to 50 women. Coal is scooped on to a conveyor which takes it to the 'autopack' machine that fills 5lb bags. They are sealed with wire and women then pack them into larger carriers. It fills a need at peak time but is not a serious rival to conventional coalmen. 64 01 06a

1964 04 10

Cottenham photo feature – 64 04 10a

1965 10 22

Cottenham link with US President Calvin Coolidge – 65 10 22c

1972 08 14

A Cottenham man used to be quite fond of cheese but he has rather lost the taste for it since he learned that the once-famous Cottenham product probably stands to lose him a few thousand pounds. Two cottages he had planned to sell to make way for new housing have just had a preservation order put on them because of an old cheese press and cheese room in one of them. It is thought that the last cheese was made in Cottenham about 80 years ago and the press may prove to be extremely old. In the 18th century there were large herds of cattle in the village. The milk was used to produce large quantities of butter and the surplus to make the famous "Cottenham Double Cheese", a speciality of Stourbridge Fair and other markets in the area

1974 01 15

The economic crisis has forced a Haddenham baker to cut his van deliveries by half, leaving an estimated 600 customers in Cottenham, Haddenham and Wilburton to find alternative suppliers of their daily bread. Mr John Wright said that he was pulling three of his five vans off the road permanently. The national association of master bakers said the profit margin per loaf was too small to make van deliveries economically viable. Barker's bakery, Betabake and the Co-operative Society all have shops in Cottenham

1974 05 26

With head down, feet in the air, a gentle bounce on his head and a good smack on his bottom, 12 year old Barry Watson was the first to suffer the bouncing ceremony in Cottenham. Altogether about 75 villager set off to take part in beating the bounds of the parish – a tradition dating back to medieval times. They intend to walk all of the 20 miles in a day long tramp around the boundary. At four places boys were bounced according to a custom originally intended to make sure they never forgot the siting of the parish boundaries.

1974 08 11

Cedar Cycles of Cottenham, one of the biggest wholesale and retail bicycle dealers in the Cambridge area, intend for the first time to exhibit foreign bikes only at the Cambridge Leisure Fair. The decision seems to be part of a trend that could subtly change the cycling scene in Cambridge – capital of British pedal power. More and more foreign bikes are to be seen on city streets. Cedar Cycles, who cover a large area in Mid-Anglia, say they sold nearly 1,000 new bicycles in 1973 and aim to double the total within five years. They have just become East Anglian agents for Yugoslavia's Unis bicycles.

1975 03 02



The bizarre sight of city-suited lawyers in mud-covered town shoes, sorting out llamas, camels & elephants in a disused coal yard at Cottenham brought to an end the sage of Circus Hoffman. Earlier in the day the villagers had been treated to the unique sight of a high court tipstaff, complete with court orders and warrants, being chased by a baby elephant. It was all part of the tragi-comedy which opened last November when one of the four brothers running Circus Hoffman decided on a unilateral declaration of independence and peeled off what he considered was his chunk of the circus and headed for Cambridge from London. The final curtain was lowered amidst tears and curses when the peeled-off chunk rejoined the whole.

1975 04 07

A wooden road sign at Cottenham is of special significance to one of its villagers, Mr Alfred Maskell. He made the sign in the last few weeks before his retirement at the Highways depot at Cottenham. The sign, together with another at Meldreth, may turn out to be two of the last wooden ones in this area. Wooden road signs have been phased out in favour of metal ones for about 15 years, although some have been used when residents have specially asked for them.

1976 09 20

In the pleasant dining room at the Hunters Fen restaurant at Cottenham we found the Cottenham smokies (55p), a mackerel smoked by the chef-innkeeper, Mr Noel Jeffery, was worth a place in anybody's recipe book. We were also trying for the first time "our local wine, St Etheldreda, Isle of Ely Sylvaner-Reisling" at £2.50. It was fruity and extremely pleasant, so pleasant that it seemed to go down almost too quickly. We could have had steak and kidney pie (£1.65), Hunstman's beefsteak (£1.95) or Cottenham lamb cutlets (£2.05). The vegetables were an absolute delight; for 45p each we had crunchy carrots, mashed potatoes, green peas and a delicious marrow and tomato concoction. We drove off into the wet fen night after paying the bill of £12.30 well satisfied.

1976 10 17

Council houses in south Cambridgeshire have suffered structural damage as an indirect result of the drought – and it may cost as much as £25,000 to put it right. Two houses in Elsworth have subsided so badly that the council are in favour of demolishing them. The long hot summer caused clay subsoils to shrink with the result that some foundations have settled and cracks have appeared. Cottenham and Dry Drayton are badly affected. Some houses are rectifying themselves with the wet weather. Doors which wouldn't shut now will and cracks are sealing themselves up. The committee authorised the underpinning of houses urgently in need of repair.

1977 02 13

Planners took a long hard look around Cambridge to see where development could best be accommodated. They soon dismissed Histon or Girton because they have relatively limited potential for longer-term growth. At Milton there is considerable opportunity for expansion within the new road framework. Both Bar Hill and Waterbeach possess characteristics suitable for growth, but Cottenham is less accessible to Cambridge. Growth of up to 4,000 might be contemplated in the Teversham-Fulbourn area and the same at Bottisham. To the south it would be possible to develop the Clay Farm area of Trumpington and the Shelfords but Sawston seems to have the greatest development potential

1977 06 06

Cottenham residents can rest assured that their village bounds have been well and truly beaten following the traditional 20-mike hike at the weekend. 170 people took part in the annual ceremony to mark the parish limits and one who is unlikely to forget just where Cottenham stops and the rest of the world starts is 10-year-old Catherine Tompkins. She was chosen to go through the traditional "bumping" ceremony which takes place at each of the four corners of the parish. This combination of deterrent and reward, traditionally undergone by the village boys, entails being turned upside down, bumped on the ground, beaten with a stick and given a silver coin.

1977 07 19

Some of the plans for the development of Cambridge, which upset people living in the necklace villages, are being scrapped. Cambridgeshire planners are rethinking the city development plans

because they claim information on population figures and job opportunities was wrong. Population growth in the area over the next 20 years is likely to be only 13,000 instead of the original estimate of 17,000. Intense opposition mounted by villagers against the rapid build-up of houses and industry near their home has had its effect. The Fen Ditton, Waterbeach and Cottenham expansion is almost certain to be scrapped and in its place more housing in the city itself and in growing villages like Hardwick will be suggested.

1979 05 20

Farmers were weighting up the damage caused by the worst fen blow for several years. Fierce winds whipped up the light soil but they were highly localised. The worst affected areas were at Prickwillow, Stretham, Coveney & Chatteris where there were dust clouds all around but fortunately a cloudburst dampened the fields after an hour's blowing. Elsewhere orchards took a bad buffeting. A fallen tree blocked the Harlton to Haslingfield road for several hours and another fell at Cottenham. An invalid carriage was blown from the A14 at Papworth and two motorcycles collided in the strong winds.

1979 11 26

Swynford Paddocks country-house hotel at Six Mile Bottom remains the best in Cambridgeshire according to a new Egon Ronay guide. The inspectors praised their 'huge baths, bubble bath and gigantic bath towels' as well as their 'international food with a homely touch'. The Old Bridge at Huntingdon, Bedford Lodge at Newmarket and Slepe Hall Hotel at St Ives also come in for praise. But restaurants fare worse, this year even the Hotel de la Poste at Swavesey has lost its single star and three have disappeared altogether – the Don Pasquale in Cambridge, Hunters Fen at Cottenham and The Chequers, Fowlmere

1980 02 20

One of Cambridgeshire's few remaining traditional bakers, Mr John Edward Wright (known as Ted) has died. He built up the Copper Kettle firm & supplied bread to shops all over Cambridge. He moved to Haddenham at the end of the war and later opened a bakery and shop in Halifax Road, Cambridge as well as in Sutton & Cottenham. He also ran the Copper Kettle tea shop at one time. He always took great pride in the fact that his bread was always made the traditional way with no additives

1980 08 28

'Mandy Morton? Is she still around? – that reaction is one reason when the ex-Spriguns singer / songwriter is back in Cambridge after a long absence. In 1968 she formed a folk group to raise money for Cottenham Amateur Dramatic Society then started Spriguns as resident group at the Anchor. Decca records transformed their image with velvet shirts and fancy frocks and when the band broke up they were elegantly dressed but not very rich. She became extremely popular in Norway and has now returned to try her hand at the home market with a new album on Polydor out soon. 80 08 28

1980 09 24

There are twice as many bicycles in Cambridge than in other towns, but there are three times as many bike shops. The proprietor of University Cycles of King Street says the overheads are high but with hard work it is possible to make a comfortable living. Second-hand bike sales peak at the start of a university term and winter is a good time for repairs as with ice and snow there are frequent breakages. But Cedar Cycles of Cottenham say people travel out to them because they are the cheapest in the area. 80 09 24b-c

1980 10 07

A Sunday market set up in a Cottenham field took residents, local traders and councillors completely by surprise. Now written warnings have been sent to the people involved because they broke Sunday trading and food hygiene regulations. There is nothing the council can do under planning regulations but it might be stopped on the grounds of misuse of land. 80 10 07a

1980 12 01

Soham Comrades' Band is the new brass band champion of Cambridge, snatching the title from Littleport. Chatteris Town Band came third. Each had to play a march, a hymn and one other work. In the contest for small bands Waterbeach took the first prize, Wicken was second, followed by Cottenham, Haddenham and Burwell. Cottenham took the Cook trophy for the highest marks in the march with the Ernie Avery memorial trophy for the highest marks in the hymn going to Waterbeach. 80 12 01

1981 02 12

A bomb blast ripped through the Waggon and Horse pub at Cottenham, shattering a window and sending glass and burning fragments of wood into the street. The device, described as a pipe bomb had been left on a window ledge and exploded at 4.45 in the morning. Fragments the home-made device have been sent for forensic examination. Police have ruled out terrorist involvement but have no idea of the motive behind it. 81 02 12a

1981 09 24

The name of Larkinson has been associated with reclamation and scrap for over a century. In the early days the name could be seen on horse-drawn vehicles collecting rabbit skins, old hessian sacks, scrap iron and metals. Then they switched to Foden steam vehicles; today they use purpose-built containers and articulated lorries. They have various machines and their Cottenham works can process a complete car in four minutes 81 09 24

1981 10 16

The Duchess of York officially opened Arthur Rank House for the care of cancer patients in the grounds of Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge and spoke to each patient. Retired Cottenham farmer, Horace Simpkins, a life-long fan of the Royal Family, had never met Royalty before and spent five minutes chatting to her and was delighted when she gave him a flower from her posy. 81 10 16

1981 12 14

Motorists faced a nightmare journey to work with several main roads blocked by heavy snow. Saffron Walden was snowed in & Royston and Haverhill were cut off as was Cottenham, Waterbeach, Fulbourn and Sutton. Cambridge police rescued 130 people trapped in their cars and about half the county schools were closed as teachers could not get to work 81 12 14

1982 02 05

Frith photographs being sold by Cottenham firm – 82 05 05a

1982 06 10

The landlords of the Twenty Pence Inn near Cottenham invited the Queen and the Prime Minister to a party to celebrate the introduction of the new 20p coin. But they both had other engagements. A special Twenty Pence Ale – brewed for the occasion – was on sale but could only be bought with a 20 pence coin. A display of old brewing equipment was loaned from Haddenham Farmland Museum and music supplied by Cottenham Brass Band and the Steve Anthony Duo. 82 06 10a

1982 09 14

Some say it's a puma, others a panther and possibly even a cheetah – but whatever it is, a big cat has been causing quite a stir around Cottenham. The cat, bigger than a labrador, has been seen three times, most recently by Mrs Veronica Bailey who looked up from the sugar beet field where she was working to see it staring at her from ten yards away. Robert Norman of Turk's Head Farm, Smithy Fen saw one run into a field of cattle – it was sandy colour with great big paws - and Reginald and Dora Savidge saw one in their car headlights. 82 09 14

1982 10 28

Race against floods, Rampton – Cottenham lode – 82 10 28a

1983 05 12

Huntingdon Hosiery Mill which has stood empty for three years since its £150,000 renovation, may be turned into flats. The mill, which was built in the 1850s on the banks of the Ouse has been bought by a Cottenham developer. Some 80 units are being planned ranging from studio flats to two-bedroomed apartments with prices from £15-£30,000 83 05 12 p9

1983 11 17

A scheme to alter the layout of Cottenham parish church threatens to split the congregation. The vicar says moving the font and several lines of pews and establishing a children's corner, would encourage young people into the church and secure its future. But others claim it would destroy a part of its heritage and create two factions. 83 11 17 p3

1983 12 08

A scheme to alter the interior of Cottenham church has been scrapped because of objections from some of the congregation. The PCC has abandoned its plan to move the choir vestry and font and establish a children's corner. They had hoped the new look would attract young people into the church and secure its future. But parishioners felt it would change the character and destroy a vital part of Cottenham's heritage. 83 12 08 p20

1984 09 03

Twenty-eight Cambridgeshire schools use corporal punishment. At Burwell Village College the cane is used by the warden on very rare occasions, at Cottenham only in extreme cases such as continual bullying and Manor School carry out caning in rare and severe cases. Netherhall School says it is rarely and reluctantly resorted to by the headmaster or his deputies and St Bede's school has a similar policy 83 09 03

1984 09 19

A loyal staff and hard-working builders have enabled Wrights of Haddenham to get baking again, just seven weeks after a fire swept through their High Street premises. The blaze started in the roof which crashed down wreaking devastation. Big supermarket customers, the mainstay of the business, had to find alternative suppliers while the firm brought bread and cakes to stock their retail shops at Haddenham and Cottenham. Now the ovens are baking once more so the University student who has missed his Danish pastry or curry puff from the corner shop can enjoy them once more 84 09 19

1984 10 23

The former Hunter's Fen at Cottenham has reopened as a free house. It now serves real ale as well as food, with a restaurant specialising in pheasant and jugged hare and Barnsley chops. It was originally built as The Jolly Waterman around 100 years ago had had been a restaurant for 14 years. Now it is a traditional English style pub with dark beams and open fireplaces 84 10 23 p16

1984 12 17

The Chequers public house by the war memorial at Cottenham is one of nine pubs and clubs in the village. Many original features of the 370-year-old building survive and upper floors tilt at quaint angles but now it has a brand new sports room and comfortable dining area. Open log fires blaze in the huge fireplace and visitors can relax in comfortable leather Chesterfield sofas while scanning a menu which features home cooking. 84 12 17

1985 02 20

This year for the first time in living memory Cottenham people can stand in their gardens off the High Street and see across to the Oakington Road. It was once a mass of orchards. Today there are only one or two left scattered amidst seas of arable land. The acreage of fruit in Cottenham has slumped from 900 at the end of the war to well under 300 in recent years. One of the last orchards to disappear was worked by Frank Peacock and comprised 65 acres of mainly Cox apples, Conference pears and pollinators. But it became uneconomic and the Government gives grants towards grubbing them up 85 02 20 & a

1985 05 10

Messrs Richard Larkinson Ltd has warehouses and sidings equipped with modern lifting equipment at Station Works, Hills Road to load non-ferrous metal direct on rail wagons. The family originated in Biggleswade dealing in rabbit skins then diversified into household rags using imported labour from the London area. Richard Larkinson started his business in Baldock in 1958, establishing a branch at Cottenham in 1972. Today they purchase and process all grades of scrap and export to Germany in their own company vehicles, returning with wine for their associated company, Fen Vinters Ltd. 85 05 10

1987 09 07

People in Cottenham are furious at plans to more than double the number of gypsy caravans in the village. There are at present eight sites at Smithy Fen but now another 12 places have been granted permission by SCDC despite a petition signed by almost half the residents. There is only a single-track road, the school is already overcrowded and the village policeman already has enough disturbances to cope with. But the council say permission was granted as the site is well-served by a concrete road. The land had been left polluted by an oil operating company and it would be very difficult to return it to agricultural use 87 09 07

1988 07 13

Religious faith is showing signs of growth in Cambridge. The Eden Baptist Church has doubled its congregation to 600 over 10 years which now will be split into three, meeting in different parts of the city. The Roman Catholics also report steady growth with 2,000 at mass on one Sunday. Methodist churches in Cottenham and Histon see 100 attend services on Sunday mornings and the Cambridge Christian Fellowship report numbers increasing from 20 four years ago to 300. Islam too has been making advances in Cambridge – 150 attend Friday prayers at the Mosque in Mawson Road with 700 at the Eide Prayers 88 07 13

1988 10 27

Cottenham Action Group is battling to block a 250-home development behind the High Street from Crowlands to Broad Lane. It would increase the size of the village by up to 1,000 people adding to the village school which already has 430 pupils, and cause traffic congestion. The developers' plans include a health centre and doctor's surgery; they would also replace the existing sewage treatment works. 88 10 27

1989 09 20

South Cambs District Council does not provide any bottle banks but Cottenham Community Association has gone it alone and is providing three outside the village college. East Cambs has schemes in four villages while Cambridge has 22 bottle banks, seven waste-paper skips and a metal-recycling bank. The County is investigating whether methane gas from the Milton landfill site could be sold to generate electricity for commercial use. 89 09 20b

1990 02 23

H.C. Moss, the building company, was started by Cliff Moss in 1962 with two employees; now it has 150 based at Cottenham, to which it moved in 1977. Much of their workload is construction projects of which the majority is housing estates. It also specialises in the renovation and conversion of period buildings into flats and apartments. One such project is the Riverside Mill at Godmanchester. Now they are working on a Maltings renovation at King's Lynn with an indoor waterfall and 19 luxury flats opposite Tattersalls in Newmarket. – 90 02 23b, c